

## U.N. censures Iran and Iraq

GENEVA (Agencies) — The U.N. Human Rights Commission on Wednesday condemned Iran and Iraq over their human rights records. The commission cited Iran for continuing rights violations including torture and excessive use of the death penalty. In a resolution adopted by 28 votes to eight with 17 abstentions, the forum also expressed "grave concern" at Tehran-backed death threats hanging over British author Salman Rushdie. The commission adopted another resolution condemning Iraq for its "continued massive and grave violations" of human rights, including summary executions and torture. The resolution, adopted by 31 countries with one vote against (Sudan) and 21 abstentions, listed a long series of violations and urges Baghdad to apply internationally recognized human rights conventions.

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## No right of return before numbers — Peres

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israel will not discuss the right of return for Palestinian refugees before their numbers are known, Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said Wednesday. "We refuse to discuss the principle of the right of return for refugees because we do not know their number," Mr. Peres told Israel Radio. "The numbers vary between 300,000, 600,000, one million," Mr. Peres said. The comments came a day after Arab and Israeli officials agreed to set up a standing committee to decide the fate of those displaced in the 1967 Middle East war. He said the committee would meet regularly at ministerial and expert level "to determine the number of displaced people, where they live and their intentions." Israel's right-wing opposition strongly opposes any right of return and was to bring before parliament on Wednesday a bill to try to stop the government from negotiating the issue. Likud leader Benjamin Netanyahu said the refugee issue "must be treated as a humanitarian problem concerning a few thousand people. When the government declares itself ready to bring to Israel one million Arabs, it could cause a disaster."

## Kabariti in contact with Amr Musa and UAE minister

AMMAN (Petra) — Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Al Kabariti and his Egyptian counterpart Amr Musa reviewed on Wednesday in a telephone conversation the latest developments on the Arab and international arenas. In another telephone conversation, Mr. Kabariti and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) minister of state for foreign affairs, Sheikh Hamdan Ben Zayed, discussed issues of common interest and means of enhancing coordination between the two countries on Arab and regional issues.

## Japan thanks Jordan

AMMAN (Petra) — Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Al Kabariti on Wednesday received Japanese Ambassador to Jordan Yoji Ikeda, who expressed the Japanese government's appreciation of the assistance Jordan sent to Japan following the quake which recently struck Kobe and killed more than 5,000 people. The Japanese envoy conveyed to Mr. Kabariti a similar message of thanks from the council of advisors at the Japanese parliament. The two discussed at the meeting arrangements for holding a Jordan week in Tokyo and the international economic conference which will be held in Amman later this year. Mr. Kabariti voiced appreciation of Japan's support for the development process in Jordan.

## Arafat meets Fatah leaders in Tunis

TUNIS (R) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat met leaders of the organisation's mainstream Fatah movement in Tunis on Wednesday to discuss the stalled peace process with Israel, PLO officials said. Mr. Arafat, who arrived for a two-hour stopover in Tunis, was to leave immediately after the meeting for Morocco, where he was expected to meet King Hassan. Fatah leaders have been holding informal meetings since Sunday without Mr. Arafat, in an apparent attempt to keep the organisation's decision-making process in Tunis rather than in the Gaza Strip where Mr. Arafat lives. PLO officials said Mr. Arafat would attend a Fatah Central Council meeting postponed on March 3 and now scheduled for March 15 to 16 in Tunis.

## Gaza police release two Hamas preachers

GAZA CITY (AFP) — Palestinian police have freed two prominent Hamas clerics whose arrests sparked a protest in the Gaza Strip, police said Wednesday. Sheikh Ahmad Nimir and Sheikh Salman Al Safadi of the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) were detained on Saturday after they gave sermons attacking the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO). The pair were released Tuesday after police informed them of the necessity to respect the law. Gaza police chief Ghazi Jabi told AFP. About 400 people marched through Khan Yunis refugee camp on Sunday where Sheikh Nimir preaches to condemn the arrests and demand their release. Sheikh Safadi preaches in the Hamas-controlled Al-Aqsa Mosque in Gaza City.

## Yemen approves memo with S. Arabia

ANAA (R) — Yemen's cabinet on Wednesday approved a memorandum of understanding signed between Yemen and Saudi Arabia on how to settle their 0-year-old border dispute, the official news agency ABA said. The memorandum was signed on Feb. 25 after more than a month of talks between Yemeni and Saudi delegations in Saudi Arabia to settle the dispute which erupted into clashes in December.

# Time running out for peace process — Kabariti

Foreign minister criticises Israel over Palestinian track, questions U.S. adherence to its pledge to Jordan

By Ghadeer Taher  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Al Kabariti, describing the period ahead as a test of American and Israeli intentions, warned Wednesday that time was running out for making tangible progress in deadlocked Middle East peace talks as Israel and the U.S. head into an election year in 1996.

Mr. Kabariti, who will host U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher next Monday, questioned the credibility of the Clinton administration's role in the peace process and criticised the U.S. for renegeing on commitments to Jordan to cancel its debt to Washington.

"We have a six-month window of opportunity to make real progress in the peace process," said Mr. Kabariti. "If progress is not made in the next six months, then it would be very hard to reach anywhere because both the Israeli government and the U.S. administration will face election pressures limiting their options in the peace process," Mr. Kabariti told the Jordan Times.

Mr. Kabariti, who is expected to accompany His Majesty King Hussein to the United States at the end of the month for talks with President Bill Clinton, said failure to implement the articles of the Israeli-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) declaration of principles would negatively affect Israel's peace talks with Syria and



Abdul Karim Kabariti  
Lebanon

"process ... what is taking place on the Palestinian-Israeli track is very frustrating," said Mr. Kabariti, who on Tuesday hosted the first Arab-Israeli talks on the fate of hundreds of thousands of displaced Palestinians — one of the thorniest issues of the peace process. "If matters remain the way they are there is no great hope in achieving tangible progress on the peace tracks before the Israeli elections."

Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres blocked substantial progress in the four-party talks fuelling a sense of crisis in the already stalled Middle East peace talks.

Since Mr. Christopher's last visit to the region three months ago, the deadlock in the peace process has intensified. Israel is at deep odds with the Palestinians and Syria in peace negotiations and with Egypt over the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

Mr. Kabariti, who is expected to accompany His Majesty King Hussein to the United States at the end of the month for talks with President Bill Clinton, said failure to implement the articles of the Israeli-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) declaration of principles would negatively affect Israel's peace talks with Syria and

this will not continue. "I believe this is a period to test Israel's intentions," Mr. Kabariti said. "In reality, what is happening on the Palestinian track is a sign of the failure of (Israel's) intentions in implementing articles" of the declaration of principles.

Mr. Kabariti said the Kingdom was disappointed about the U.S. failure to honour its commitments to Jordan.

"We feel let down by the administration and other American institutions over the debt relief and the failure to so far include Jordan in the 1996 assistance programme," said Mr. Kabariti.

A House of Representatives Sub-committee recently slashed to \$50 million an administration request for \$275 million in outlays to write off up to \$488 million in outstanding Jordanian official debts to the U.S. Jordan is also concerned about the amount of assistance the U.S. will give the Kingdom to help it meet the challenges of the peace era.

The U.S. administration has reportedly requested only \$43 million in military and economic aid to Jordan in the draft budget for fiscal 1996 — a small amount compared to the \$2.5 billion economic and military aid requested by Jordan.

ties in Jerusalem.

## Israel unveils its plans for separation' from Palestinians

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — A "security line" separating Israelis and Palestinians will skirt Jerusalem and cost \$133 million, Police Minister Moshe Shahal said Tuesday.

Police spokesman Eric Bar Chen said the committee's plans had met with the approval of army Chief of Staff General Amnon Shahak on most points.

After four suicide bombings in Israel which left 54 people dead in 10 months, Mr. Bar Chen called for "total separation" between Israelis and Palestinians as the only way to halt the slaughter.

We described the separation as a "security line" which would not prejudice future talks with the Palestinians on the final border.

The Palestinians want Arab East Jerusalem as the capital of a future independent state.

Israeli settler leaders meanwhile withdrew an appeal to the supreme court Wednesday after the government pledged to enforce legislation limiting Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO). The pair were released Tuesday after police informed them of the necessity to respect the law.

Gaza police chief Ghazi Jabi told AFP. About 400 people marched through Khan Yunis refugee camp on Sunday where Sheikh Nimir preaches to condemn the arrests and demand their release. Sheikh Safadi preaches in the Hamas-controlled Al-Aqsa Mosque in Gaza City.

## Christopher begins packed Mideast troubleshooting trip

CAIRO (Agencies) — U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher held talks here Wednesday in a new bid to revive the Arab-Israeli peace talks and defuse a row between Egypt and Israel over the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

The U.S. envoy, who visited the region seven times last year, met Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak's political adviser Osama Al Baz and Foreign Minister Amr Musa.

He was to meet Mr. Mubarak on Thursday.

His week-long tour will also take him to Israel, the Gaza Strip, Saudi Arabia and Syria before winding up in Jordan.

Mr. Musa insisted Egypt would continue playing a key role in the Middle East peace process despite its row with Israel.

In addition to its dispute

with Egypt, Israel is also at odds with Syria over the Golan Heights and with the Palestinians over the delayed next stage in Palestinian self-rule in Gaza and the West Bank.

Asked whether the nuclear row could harm Egypt's role in the peace process, Mr. Musa replied: "Are you implying that we should accept all the arguments from any country in order to maintain our role?"

He said Egypt's position on the peace process "remains the same ... a peaceful settlement based on land for peace."

On his first trip to the region this year, Mr. Christopher will hear a formidable list of grievances from all the participants in talks between Israel and its Arab neighbours.

Syria vowed Wednesday not to accept a peace deal imposed by force, demanding that peace be based on existing international resolu-

(Continued on page 7)

## Dollar stabilises a little

NEW YORK (AFP) — The dollar stabilised on world markets Wednesday, but still at very low levels, after several European countries took action to bail out slide, and Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan spoke out in favour of a strong U.S. currency.

The pledge referred to legislation passed in December which coded into law the Israel-PLO autonomy accords.

The greenback was also stronger against the yen, trading at \$1.43, up from \$0.64 in early trading and 90.35 Tuesday.

The dollar also rallied in London in afternoon trading, getting back up through the levels of 1.39 marks and 91 yen to stand at 1.3965 marks and 91.50 yen.

The greenback had fallen to record lows overnight of 1.3430 marks and 88.75 yen, but firmed on profit-taking and a statement by the German Bundesbank that recent rate swings were "marked by exaggerations that are not justified by economic fundamentals."

It also pledged to work closely with other European central banks "in a joint effort to assure stability of exchange rates," a statement that raised marked fears of renewed intervention to try to rescue the dollar.

The Bundesbank welcomed a U.S. statement Tuesday that it wanted a strong dollar, a view repeated by Greenspan Wednesday.

"It is terribly important that we maintain a strong dollar against major currencies ... it is terribly important to maintain the stability of the dollar," Mr. Greenspan told a congressional committee.

Mr. Greenspan characterised the dollar's recent fall as "both unwelcome and troublesome," and stressed that the U.S. central bank's role was to achieve both monetary and price stability.

Moves by the French, Belgian and Danish governments to raise interest rates also

(Continued on page 7)

## King honours Amman mayor

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein on Wednesday conferred on Amman Mayor Mamdouh Al Abbadi the Jordanian Al Kawab Medal of the First Order in recognition of his efforts in serving the capital and its residents.

Another project is a tunnel under the Qala (citadel)

mountain to reach the centre of Amman. According to Dr. Abbadi, studies are going on. The project is expected to cost JD 2.5 million to JD 3 million.

Dr. Abbadi said that following the implementation of the tunnel project, attention would be directed towards digging another tunnel under Jabal Luweibdeh to help ease traffic in the city.

Dr. Abbadi presented the King with plans for the development of eastern Amman and briefed him on plans

for the central part of the Kingdom located between Zarqa River in the north and Mujib River in the south.

He said the design for the projects were complete and bids would be invited in two weeks.

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Jordan hosts two thirds of Palestine refugees living outside the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Creative solutions are required to answer the delicate question of Palestine refugees, since refugees and displaced persons will determine the success or failure of the peace process, Prince Hassan added (see full text on page 7).

In 1994 UNRWA faced a budget deficit of \$12 million. Mr. Turkmen said, warning that if there was no increase in contributions this year then the agency would be subjected to a "serious deficit" that would necessitate cuts in existing services provided to Palestinians.

UNRWA currently provides educational health and relief services and is the only organisation that caters for the Palestinian poor.

Mr. Turkmen said that donations had remained at almost the same level for the last few years, hence the agency's budget has struggled to cope with increase of demands on their services, through natural population growth and inflation.

"For the moment there have been no cuts, but if there is a budget deficit again

(Continued on page 7)

His Majesty King Hussein waves to crowds as he leaves the Greater Amman Municipality Wednesday (Photo by Yousef Al Allan)

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(Continued on page 7)



## Police hold suspect in connection with rape, murder of Zarqa girl

By Rana Hussein  
Special to the Jordan Times

ZARQA — Police Wednesday announced the arrest of a 50-year-old man suspected of the rape and murder of a 10-year-old girl from Zarqa camp.

Colonel Adnan Abdullat, director of the Zarqa police, said that the suspect, identified as A.S., has confessed to raping and killing Samar G. in Zarqa.

Samar's body was found dumped near a pile of stones on Feb. 24 by a shepherd in the Tabarbour area two days after she was killed, according to police reports.

The child, was reported missing on Feb. 22 after she was last seen riding in a blue car. Col. Abdullat, however, would not reveal any further details about the case "until we complete our procedures." "All I can say is that we are still questioning the suspect and I can't give further details," Col. Abdullat said, adding that an article published Wednesday in Arabic daily regarding the murder was inaccurate.

"We at the police department regret what Al Ra'i published concerning the crime because it is all false information," the police official told reporters who gathered at Zarqa police station for a press conference.

Col. Abdullat told the reporters that the press conference would be postponed until Saturday, when the authorities expect to complete their investigations.

"This case concerns the whole society, and all newspapers have the right to publish the same information," the colonel added. Meanwhile, Tafileh police Wednesday continued their search for a 5-year-old child who has been reported missing since March 6, officials said.

Hazem A.P. left his home on March 6 and did not return, a police official told the Jordan Times Wednesday.

The official said that police and Civil Defence Department (CDD) rescue teams have expanded their search near the mountain area along Tafileh.

## Jordan, PNA discuss facilitating travel across Jordan River bridges

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordanian and Palestinian officials Wednesday met here to discuss ways to further facilitate the transportation of travellers across the Jordan River bridges and the crossing points.

Interior Minister Salameh Hammad said after the meeting that the discussions were held in a brotherly atmosphere and took place in accordance with the directives of His Majesty King Hussein for the purpose of bolstering relations between Jordan and the Palestinian National Authority (PNA).

The discussions were comprehensive and covered topics that were not discussed in any earlier Jordanian-Palestinian meetings, accord-

ing to Mr. Hammad.

He said Jordan is determined to maintain the highest possible level of cooperation with the PNA and with the Palestinian people, with whom Jordan maintains very strong brotherly ties which must be further strengthened by all possible means.

Nabil Shaath, head of the Palestinian team, said after the meeting that the two sides discussed means to bolster all aspects of Jordanian-Palestinian relations and the implementation of Jordanian-Palestinian agreements.

Dr. Shaath said that the two sides focused attention on ways to ensure the success of joint Jordanian-Palestinian plans that would safeguard

## Ministry, UNICEF to start polio immunisation campaign

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Health, in cooperation with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the World Health Organisation (WHO), are currently preparing for the national polio immunisation campaign due to start on March 18, a UNICEF statement said.

The campaign will cover all children aged 0-5 years, throughout the Kingdom.

The campaign, which is in accordance with WHO and UNICEF's recommendations for a polio-free Jordan, aims to attain a national immunisation coverage rate above 90 per cent and contribute towards achieving global polio eradication by the year 2,000, according to UNICEF.

The polio vaccine will be offered at all Ministry of Health centres, mother and

child centres and hospitals, as well as the Royal Medical Services, Jordan University Hospital and United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) medical services.

As for remote areas not accessible to these centres, they will be serviced by mobile ministry immunisation teams.

The vaccine will be available free-of-charge to all children residing in Jordan, irrespective of nationality, medical insurance or immunisation status.

During the campaign, each child under five years of age, will be given the two doses of the polio vaccine, each in the form of two oral drops.

The two doses will be administered four weeks apart; the first dose during the week of March 18-23, and the second one during the

week starting April 22.

The success of this campaign, according to UNICEF, resides in the cooperation of families, who are requested to bring their children forward for immunisation, and thus participate towards realising the health goal of making Jordan a polio-free country.

According to the State of the World Children 1995, published recently by UNICEF, 95 per cent of one-year-old Jordanian children have been immunised against polio during the period spanning 1990-1993.

Furthermore, the Progress of the Nations report — another UNICEF publication — indicated that the world is well-on-track towards eradicating polio by the end of this century.

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## 2 U.S. employees killed in Karachi ambush

KARACHI (R) — Two U.S. government workers were killed and one was wounded Wednesday morning when attackers sprayed their van with bullets as they headed to work at the U.S. consulate in this troubled port city.

The three Americans and their Pakistani driver were stopped at a traffic light on one of the city's busiest roads; when two gunmen emerged from a yellow taxi and opened fire with AK-47 assault rifles at about 7:45 a.m. (0245 GMT), police said.

The assailants shot out the front and back windscreens of the van, killing Jackie Van Lusdingham, a secretary, and Gary C. Durell, a communications technician.

Mark McCloy, who worked in the consulate's post office, was injured and was in stable condition, according to U.S. officials. The driver was not hit and took the Americans to the Agha Khan Hospital.

"The identity, affiliations and motives of the gunmen are not known at this time," the U.S. embassy in Islamabad said in a brief statement.

The U.S. consulate in downtown Karachi was immediately closed to the public after the shooting, which took place about two miles (three kilometers) away at a busy intersection on Shar-E-Sarin Road.

The American flag flew at half-mast and a large contingent of heavily armed Pakistani police stood guard outside the fortified U.S. compound. Americans who work at the consulate were advised to stay inside their homes for safety.

"An intensive search has

been ordered," said Pakistan's Information Secretary Hussain Haqqani. "The government will spare no effort to find and arrest those responsible."

The U.S. embassy in Islamabad and consulates in Karachi and other cities have tightened security since last month's arrest and extradition to the United States of Ramzi Yousef, a suspect in the 1993 bombing of the World Trade Centre in New York.

Some Pakistanis opposed the extradition of Yousef, an Iraqi. He was arrested at a small guest house in Islamabad and immediately put on a plane to New York.

Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's government is pro-American and she is planning an official visit to Washington next month where she will meet U.S. President Bill Clinton. Also, first lady Hillary Clinton is scheduled to visit Pakistan for two days at the end of this month.

However, a number of militant political and religious groups espouse anti-American rhetoric and have accused the United States of involvement in the worsening violence that has convulsed Karachi, leaving more than 1,000 dead since the beginning of 1994.

A spokesman of the U.S. embassy said there was a general advisory on security in Karachis nursery area and sprayed bullets from the left side, right side and from the front side," a police official said.

"We have stopped Americans from travelling in dangerous areas," a consulate official said.

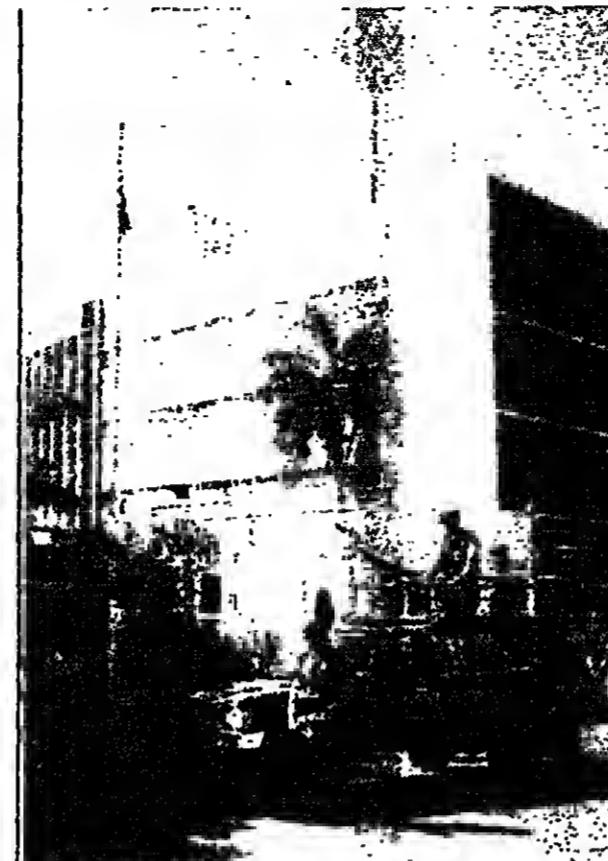
Witnesses said a number of U.S. consulate cars entered and left the mission from the back door, heavily guarded

by police and private armed guards.

"The gunmen travelling in a car overtook the U.S. consulate-general's van before a traffic signal near nursery area and sprayed bullets from the left side, right side and from the front side," a police official said.

"The bullet-riddled van was at the moment been parked at the hospital," the police said.

At least five bullets penetrated the left side and four the right side of the van, the police said. "All the side



Pakistani paramilitary troops guard the U.S. consulate in Karachi after two American diplomats were shot dead and another injured by unidentified gunmen Wednesday. The two men were killed in eastern Karachi as they were driving along the airport highway and heading for the consulate (AFP photo).

window panes were smashed."

The front was hit by nine bullets but its windscreens intact, the police said.

There was a lot of blood inside the van, which took at least 20 minutes to reach the hospital from the attack site, the police said.

"We are deeply saddened and concerned by this act of violence that has taken place in Karachi," Mrs. Bhutto told reporters in Singapore, where she was visiting to encourage more foreign investment in her country.



### Remains of 2 Romanovs reburied in Russia

ST. PETERSBURG, Russia (AP) — Two members of the Romanov royal family who died in exile were reburied in the cathedral Romanov descendants, was authorised in where Russian czars since Peter the Great January by Mr. Sobchak and President Boris Yeltsin. The remains of Nicholas and his wife, Grand Duchess Victoria, were brought to Russia for further genetic tests. Nicholas II abdicated in 1917, and he and his family were held prisoner until 1920. The revolution at a royal compound outside St. Petersburg, then called Petrograd, was transported across the city in black hearses to the Peter and Paul Cathedral. Later, the Bolsheviks moved them to the Urals. About 200 people stood somberly in a drizzle outside the cathedral while St. Petersburg Mayor Anatoly Sobchak, accompanied by a priest, held the funeral service for the ground dozens of priests and journalists, observed the duke and his wife. (AFP photo)

## Zhirinovsky vows to back India against Pakistan

NEW DELHI (R) — Russian nationalist leader Vladimir Zhirinovsky, ending a trip to India with characteristic bluntness, said Wednesday that if he came to power, Moscow would back India in any war with Pakistan.

In a new barrage of controversial statements during a trip to India, Mr. Zhirinovsky predicted the Central Asian republics would reunite with Russia, helping realise his goal of establishing a common border with India.

The leader of Russia's Liberal Democratic Party, speaking at a news conference at the end of a three-day visit to New Delhi, stood by a statement he made Monday when he said he wanted Bangladesh and Pakistan to be folded back into India.

Russia's ambassador to Bangladesh apologised for the remark, which drew a strong protest from Dhaka. Mr. Zhirinovsky said the ambassador should be withdrawn for anti-Russian views.

He also restated his view that Afghanistan and Pakistan should turn over a narrow corridor of territory to Russia in case of conflagration starting between India and Pakistan.

Mr. Zhirinovsky said the chances of a fourth war between India and Pakistan would be diminished if Islamabad knew Moscow would support New Delhi, for decades a major buyer of Russian arms.

"If both India and Pakistan were to know in a very frank and forthright manner as to what will the stand of Russia in case of conflagration starting between India and Pakistan, I think then Pakistan would itself behave in such a manner that that conflict will even not get started," he said.

Mr. Zhirinovsky said his goal of establishing a common border between Russia and India could be realised if the former Soviet Republics in Central Asia were folded into Russia, and a narrow corridor was opened through Afghanistan and Pakistan.

Mr. Zhirinovsky made clear his renewed call for a redrawing of national boundaries through much of Central and South Asia was aimed at strengthening Russia and India, with which he said Moscow had always had

unique relations.

"This is the only country with which neither in the past, present or future, we see any chance of any contradiction," he said.

The outspoken politician said India, not Pakistan, would be his ally if he won presidential elections set for next year and succeeded Boris Yeltsin: "In the case of a conflict arising between India and Pakistan, we have made it abundantly clear on whose side we shall be."

If India had a very broad-based agreement with us, which includes military and technical cooperation, and India asked us for such help, then we shall be ready to render such assistance," he said.

Mr. Zhirinovsky said the ambassador to Bangladesh from Dhaka would be diminished if Islamabad knew Moscow would support New Delhi, for decades a major buyer of Russian arms.

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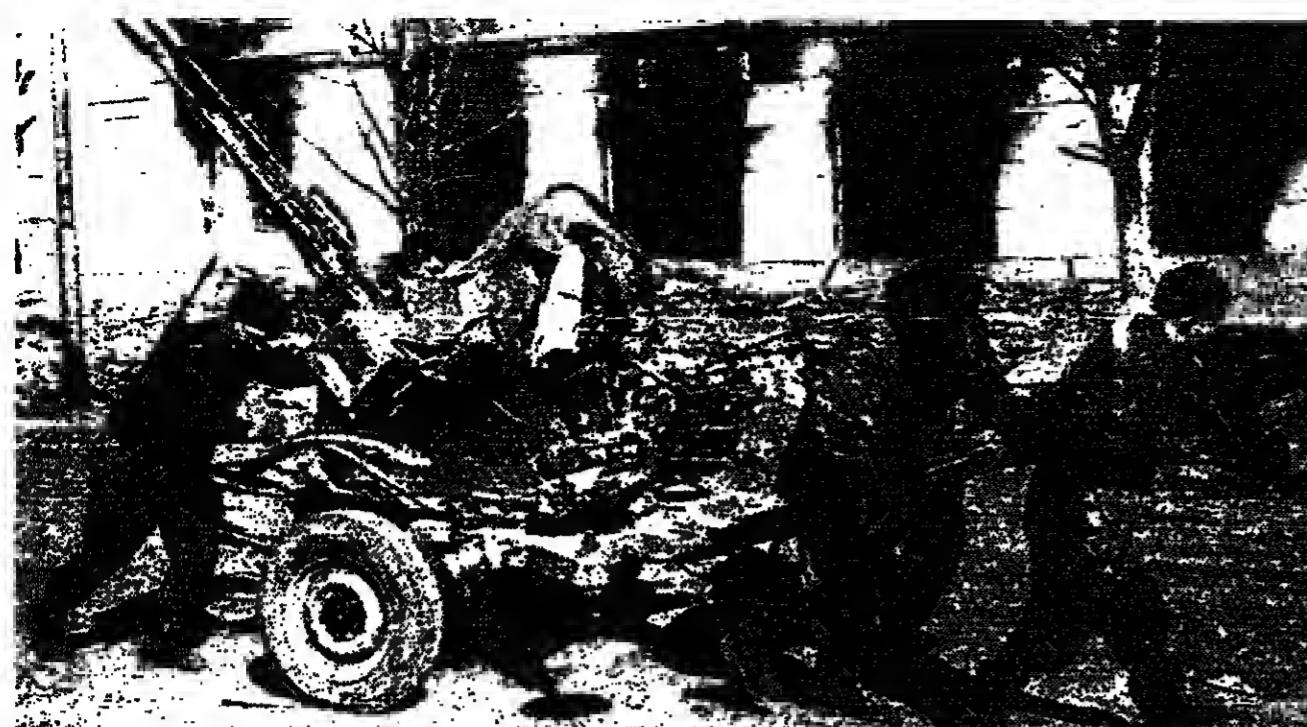
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# World News

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Russian soldiers push an anti-aircraft gun unit as they change their position in Grozny. Russian forces admitted Tuesday that fighting was still going on in the Chechen

capital a day after the government in Moscow said its troops had finished mopping up the last elements of resistance there (AFP photo)

## Russian troops use carrot and stick in Chechnya

SLEPTSOVSK, Russia (R) — Russian troops, adopting "carrot and stick" tactics, shelled Chechen positions in the west of the breakaway region but held true talks Wednesday in another settlement.

Reporters based in Slepovsk, a settlement in Ingushetia near the Chechen border, could hear fierce shelling throughout the night coming from a rebel stronghold between the villages of Banut and Achkhoi-Martan and Samashki.

Only by early morning did the buzz of multiple-launch Grad missiles and the thumping of Howitzers and field guns cease.

Local militia, standing guard outside Samashki, some 40 kilometres west of the Chechen capital Grozny, said Wednesday the Russian war was mainly shelling Banut and Achkhoi-Martan — two well-fortified rebel bases.

Russia sent troops into Chechnya almost three

months ago to crush armed separatists. They have ousted rebels from the capital Grozny, but resistance remains strong in other areas.

Russian officials have acknowledged 1,200 deaths among Russian servicemen, but the real toll is believed to be much higher. Civilian casualties are estimated at several thousand.

ITAR-TASS news agency said Wednesday that some Russian troops had been wounded after coming under fire in the past 24 hours.

"Federal artillery shelled illegal armed detachments in the villages of Chechen-Aul, Novye Atagi, Urus Martan and other places," it said.

Radio Russia said Tuesday that Russian troops had surrounded and were set to storm the rebel stronghold of Argun, east of Grozny, at any moment.

There was no direct access to the battle scene around the western villages as Russian troops occupied positions

along the key Restov-Baku Highway, cutting the only road from Ingushetia.

But refugees from Banut, arriving in Slepovsk, said shelling had intensified over the last three days after the Russian launched an abortive tank attack on the village.

In sharp contrast to the hostilities around Banut and Achkhoi-Martan, calm reigned around the villages of Samashki, where much of the population supports separatist leader Dzhokhar Dudayev.

"The Russians are not shelling the village and we are holding talks with them to avert fighting here," said Salim, a local standing guard outside Samashki in a casual suit armed with a pistol.

"For the third day running, our administration has been holding talks with Russian commanders on conditions for keeping the village out of the fighting," he said. "We don't want any trouble here."

The respected elders of Samashki agreed a truce with the Russian last Thursday. But the ceasefire came under threat after Russian troops started shelling Achkhoi-Martan and some local fighters joined in the exchange of fire.

"The Russians demand that we surrender all heavy weapons," said Salim. "But the problem is that we have none."

"We are trying to do whatever we can to avoid provocations," he added. "We have driven fighters out and only the local militia with just a few Kalashnikovs have remained."

Reporters in Samashki did not see any heavy weapons or even the hand-held grenade launchers that are commonplace in other rebel-held parts of Chechnya.

Some men in the village wore civilian clothes and were poorly armed, but others, in full combat gear and better armed, looked like professional fighters.

## U.K.-IRA arms compromise sparks anger

LONDON (R) — Protestant politicians from Northern Ireland voiced anger Wednesday at an apparent easing of Britain's insistence that the Irish Republican Army (IRA) give up its arms before its political wing can enter full peace talks.

But Britain denied there had been a change of policy.

The government was expected to be closely quizzed on its position later Wednesday, when parliament debates so-called exclusion orders banning certain people entering mainland Britain under the Prevention of Terrorism Act.

Home Secretary (Interior Minister) Michael Howard confirmed in a radio interview that the British government would be lifting some of the orders after "security advice."

But the main focus is on arms, following comments by Britain's Northern Ireland Secretary Sir Patrick Mayhew.

Speaking in Washington after meetings with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, Sir Patrick said Tuesday that Britain would press the IRA and its political wing, Sinn Fein, to show "a willingness in principle to disarm progressively" with the scrapping of "some arms" as confidence-building gesture.

For Sinn Fein to take its place at the talks table, Britain wanted "a common practical understanding" of how the decommissioning of arms would be carried out.

Pro-British Unionist members of parliament from Northern Ireland swiftly accused the government of dumping its demand that all arms be handed in with a request for some arms only.

John Taylor, an MP for the Ulster Unionists, told BBC Radio: "This government is in full retreat from the threat of terrorism, both politically and in a security sense."

"That is why they have no

longer any credibility in Northern Ireland and increasingly so in the rest of the United Kingdom."

Another Unionist, Ken Maginnis, told the Daily Telegraph: "It is absolutely disgraceful to talk about a token (handover) to people who hold 100 tonnes of sophisticated weapons. This capitulates to the 10 per cent who have threatened the rest."

But Junior Northern Ireland Minister Michael Ancram told BBC Radio there had been no change of policy, calling the reaction to Sir Patrick's comments "a complete misunderstanding."

"It's no different from what we have been saying for months," he said. "If we are to enter exploratory dialogue there has to be a serious and substantive exploration of the issues, including arms."

British officials have been in exploratory talks with Sinn Fein following the IRA's

ceasefire, which began last September.

Talks have also been held with the political representatives of Protestant guerrillas who called a marching truce in October.

But Britain has so far balked at starting full, all-party talks including Sinn Fein, saying arms must first be handed in.

Sinn Fein's response to Sir Mayhew's remarks was cautious.

Martin McGuinness, who is the lead negotiator in talks with British officials, again criticised London for putting obstacles in the way of Sinn Fein's entry into full-party talks but conceded that all sides' arsenals must go.

"We accept that at some

stage in the future arms will have to be decommissioned, and that will be all the arms," he told BBC Radio. "That will only happen in the context of an overall political settlement."

BRUSSELS (R) — A former general in the Belgian Air Force linked to a defence contract corruption scandal that has shaken the government was found dead in a hotel room in Brussels Wednesday, a military source said.

Belgian media reported that it was suicide but this could not be confirmed by the police.

Jacques Lefebvre, 64, was a general in the air force in the late 1980s when the Italian defence firm Agusta is alleged to have given kickbacks to Socialist politicians

to secure the sale of 46 helicopters to the army.

Belgian RTBF Radio said

staff at the Mayfair Hotel in central Brussels found the body of the retired general after breakfast. The general, who lived very near the hotel, had booked in for one night.

Six small bottles of whisky

were found next to his body.

There were no signs of violence or firearms, the radio added.

On Tuesday, a Brussels lawyer arrested over the so-called Agusta scandal, told investigators that the air force general was linked to

the defence contract affair.

Belga News Agency said

Gen. Lefebvre had been questioned two weeks ago by the judge investigating whether Socialist politicians had been bribed by Agusta.

The Italian firm denies any wrongdoing.

Gen. Lefebvre "retired" as air force chief of staff in December 1988, one month after the Agusta contract was signed.

Three Francophone ministers resigned over the affair in January last year and a string of Flemish Socialists has named in the scandal.

Foreign Minister Frank Vandenbroucke and current NATO Secretary-General Willy Claes have been under pressure to resign after admitting they were aware Agusta had offered a large "gift" to their Flemish Socialist Party.

Mr. Claes and Mr. Vandenbroucke, who had earlier denied any knowledge of the payments, both said they had rejected the offer.

Mr. Claes was economic affairs minister when the defence contract was awarded to Agusta.

## Former general tied to Belgian scandal found dead

PARIS (R) — French Prime Minister Edouard Balladur, recently ousted in a stunning opinion poll upset as frontrunner for the presidency, will have to break an electoral jinx if he is to win the vote in May, pollsters say.

Paris Mayor Jacques Chirac, of the same conservative neo-Gaullist party as the prime minister, has swept past Mr. Balladur in opinion polls published in the last week.

Socialist candidate Lionel Jospin was also level with Mr. Balladur ahead of the two-stage April 23 and May 7 election.

Opinion pollsters say no frontrunner in recent history has rebounded after being overtaken ahead of the first round. Yet no one is writing off Mr. Balladur's chances of recovery despite the prime minister's distaste for campaigning and his frosty style.

"We've never seen two candidates' popularity curves cross twice during a campaign, but this is not a law," said Stephane Vacher, head of research at the Louis Harris Polling Institute.

"And Chirac and Balladur are from the same party, so it may be easier for voters to switch allegiances," he said.

Polls show many voters switching to the more controversial Chirac more out of exasperation with Balladur than enthusiasm for the Paris mayor, a two-time premier defeated by outgoing President Francois Mitterrand in both 1981 and 1988.

But surveys suggest about 45 per cent of voters have yet to make a firm choice.

Mr. Balladur, runaway favourite until early February, has stumbled over issues including a wire-tapping scandal, a spying row with the United States and a case in student protests.

"The situation can turn around, the electorate is very volatile," said Sophie Martin, director of Ipsos opinion.

Stephen Yorke, head of political research at Chase Manhattan Bank in London, reckoned the next month was crucial for the Chirac-Balladur rivalry as centre-right voters would side with

cold electorates may be that voters aged over 50 — who turn out to vote more than the young — are among Mr. Balladur's strongest supporters. Mr. Chirac's best backers are young, first-time voters.

It is hard to estimate who has the best core support. A recent Sofres poll indicated 61 per cent of voters for both Chirac and Balladur would not change their minds against 73 per cent firmly committed to Jospin.

Polls this week indicate Mr. Chirac would beat Mr. Balladur on the second round between the top two candidates and that Mr. Chirac would defeat Mr. Jospin by a wider margin than Mr. Balladur. All three are in contention to reach the second round.

But precedents are worrying for Mr. Balladur. Mr. Chirac overtook former centrist Premier Raymond Barre in 1988 and Mr. Barre never again posed a challenge in a race eventually won by Mr. Mitterrand.

In 1974, centrist Valery Giscard d'Estaing overtook Gaullist candidate Jacques Chaban-Delmas and went on to win. In 1969, Georges Pompidou overtook centrist

Alain Poher and won.

Mr. Giscard d'Estaing said Tuesday he had decided against a new bid for the French presidency, saying voters were unenthusiastic about his ideas.

"Have I found resonance at this time in French public opinion? I observe with sadness that they have not," he told TF1 television.

"Under these conditions, why should I add to the current confusion? That's the reason why I am not a candidate in the presidential election," he said.

Mr. Balladur Wednesday tried to calm a row over capital gains he made of nearly 2.5 million francs (about \$500,000) when he sold off shares before becoming premier nearly two years ago.

A communiqué rushed out Wednesday and signed by Mr. Balladur confirmed the gains, but said the share sale actually resulted in a net loss.

Mr. Balladur's "concern always to separate his public and private activities resulted in a loss of capital and not enrichment," said the communiqué, reacting to revelations Wednesday in the investigative weekly *Canard Enchaîné*.

## Winnie seeks meeting with S. African president

JOHANNESBURG (R) — Winnie Mandela is shunning South Africa's Deputy President Thabo Mbeki and wants a meeting with her estranged husband President Nelson Mandela over corruption allegations, government officials said Wednesday.

Mr. Mbeki, appointed by President Nelson Mandela to look into the accusations threatening her cabinet position, wanted to meet her urgently to resolve the issue, his spokesman Ricky Naidoo told Reuters.

Mr. Naidoo said Mrs. Mandela had shunned Mr. Mbeki by not turning up for two meetings scheduled for Monday.

"She did not pitch up for

the meetings. Then she indicated she was not prepared to meet with the deputy president at all," Mr. Naidoo said.

"Last night the deputy president indicated in a letter to her that it was a matter of urgency for them to meet... I'm concerned that the issue is running for a long time now, he wants to resolve it," Mr. Naidoo added.

Police are investigating allegations Mrs. Mandela used her position and influence to win housing contracts in the Gauteng region around Johannesburg for a building firm in which she had financial interests.

Lawyers acting for Ms. Mandela said Wednesday

they were considering applying to the Supreme Court to order police to hand over documents and video film seized in a raid a week ago on her luxury home in Johannesburg's Soweto township.

"If they do not hand over documents soon, we can either go back to court outlining the failure of the police to respond in time to our requests or wait and see if they file," lawyer Templer Mageza told Reuters.

Mrs. Mandela, who is deputy arts, culture, science and technology minister, returned from an unauthorised trip to West Africa last week, charging she was the victim of a vendetta and vowing to fight back.

Mrs. Mandela's spokesman, Alan Reynolds, said she had indicated that she wanted to meet President Mandela and not Mr. Mbeki.

A statement issued by her office Tuesday said: "The issue under discussion has assumed the proportions of a national crisis which requires the intervention of the president."

"We have no indication (yet) about the meeting... obviously the president is very busy. As soon as the president has time, I am sure he will accord her the meeting," Mr. Reynolds said.

President Mandela is due to leave on a visit to Scandinavia Thursday.

## New York governor signs death penalty law

ALBANY, New York (R) — New York became the 38th U.S. state to restore the death penalty when Governor George Pataki, fulfilling an election campaign promise, signed a bill restoring capital punishment in the state.

Civil liberties groups immediately vowed to challenge the law, which empowers New York to begin executions by lethal injection from Sept. 1.

Republican Pataki reversed 18 years of vetoes by his two Democratic predecessors, Hugh Carey and Mario Cuomo, by putting his name to the legislation.

"The citizens of New York state have spoken loudly and

clearly in their calls for justice for those who commit the most serious crimes by depriving other citizens of their lives," Mr. Pataki said at the signing ceremony.

The last execution in New York was in August 1963, when armed robber Eddie Lee May died in the electric chair.

Norman Siegel, president of the New York Civil Liberties Union, said human rights groups would fight the new law.

"I think it is a bleak day for the citizens of New York but we will launch a massive public education campaign as well as possibly bringing litigation challenging the death penalty under the state

constitution," Mr. Siegel said.

The death penalty is still banned in 12 states — Alaska, Hawaii, Iowa, Maine, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, West Virginia, Vermont, Wisconsin, North Dakota, Minnesota and Michigan.

The New York law provides for the death penalty for killers of police officers, prison guards, judges and witnesses. Serial killers, terrorists, and killers who torture victims could also face execution, as would those convicted of murder in the course of a rape, burglary, kidnapping or robbery, or during a prison escape.

Mr. Pataki, elected last November after campaigning for restoration of the death penalty, said at the signing ceremony that the bill was good for law enforcement officers and for the families of victims of murders.



## Hitting the road in and around Jordan—thin line separates happiness from tragedy

### COMPETITION ON BACK OF PAPER:

While conflicts continued on the local press front between tabloid publishers and the government, we learned that Al Hayat Arabic daily, published in several capitals abroad, has received the "roll the presses" permission to print from Amman. An informal request made last year culminated in the approval to publish from Jordan last month when the paper's editor-in-chief, Jihad Al Khazen was in Amman to interview His Majesty King Hussein. The initial request made to the King over a year ago is explained by Al Hayat sources as a courtesy. Back in the 1960s, then publisher Jamil Mrowah's mother took refuge in Jordan. At the time the paper, published out of Beirut, was considered pro-Jordanian and its publisher, Kamel Mrowah was assassinated by pro-Nasserite forces in 1966. Therefore King Hussein has had an affinity towards the paper to start with. Although in more recent years Al Hayat has more than occasionally been banned from circulation in Jordan, its readership here is significant. It sells about 1,000 copies even though it arrives a day late. That the paper is owned by Prince Khaled Ben Sultan of Saudi Arabia has not prevented its banning in the peninsula as well. And that ownership is no negligible factor in the consideration of permitting the paper to publish out of Amman. Meanwhile the journal has also received the approval to print from the Ministry of Information. The Jordanian authorities would prefer that Al Hayat be printed in the Zarqa duty free zone as are several other papers. But the publishers are looking into the feasibility of contracting with the Jordan Press Foundation (JPF), the owners of Al Ra'i and the Jordan Times, which they say is better equipped to do the job and likely to offer reasonable rates for the service. Al Hayat's surveys of the target market, which comprises Jordan and Palestine, point to an initial printing of 5,000 copies daily. Sources say the current 200 fils news-stand cost of the paper (received now from Cairo) could be hiked when publishing starts from Amman. Accustomed to hi-tech printing facilities, the newspaper's administration is also exploring the possibility of installing a \$500,000 machine at the JPF (if that is the site selected for printing) which would receive print films via satellite. Depending on the outcome of discussions on costs and financial arrangements, Al Hayat could be in business here in the next few months. It would be interesting to see what kind of competition with the local dailies the move would trigger. "Competition with Jordanian dailies, however, is not our goal," the newspaper sources maintain.

**TRAGEDY AND "COLLECTIVE PUNISHMENT":** Business for liquor store owners in Zarqa governorate was put on a 10-hour hold on the Saturday of 'Eid Al Fitr. An ordinance, issued by Zarqa Governor Misleh Tarawneh, a copy of which was made available to the Jordan Times, obliged shopkeepers to shut their doors to customers from 8:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. On Friday, police patrols passed by liquor shops, rounded up the shop owners in minibuses and brought them to the Zarqa police station to sign an affidavit stating that they would not sell any liquor between the hours designated on that Saturday. The ordinance was issued following a tragic two-vehicle collision on the Jerash-Zarqa highway that claimed the lives of an entire family of six. Authorities said the accident was the result ofreckless driving by a lone motorist driving the second car while under the influence of alcohol. In his weekly column in Al Ra'i prominent Islamist Deputy Bassam Emoush described the pain he felt in witnessing six coffins — those of retired army officer Ahmad Hajji Al Hawaldeh, his wife, and four sons being carried from Bal 'Ama Mosque. Deputy Emoush, who is from the same Bani Hassan bedouin tribe as the victims, said he was further pained that he



Talal Abul Arab, singer Aida Abu Nuwar, Mr. Mitzna, singer Wael Abu Nuwar and drummer Haisam Al Nasser

found no officials in attendance at the funeral — "no governor nor police director." The head of the family was a senior army officer and a Jordanian citizen, and officials should have participated in condoling the family of the deceased, Mr. Emoush wrote on Thursday. The deputy suggested measures to stem road accidents. "As a society and a state we should look for ways to reduce such accidents through enacting legislation banning the sale of liquor in Jordan and those under age 30 from driving trucks and buses," the deputy proposed. While shop owners and citizens were obliging the 10-hour liquor ban, many were angered. They first believe that for the number of days liquor shops are forced to shut down during the year (which include the entire month of Ramadan and all major Islamic holy days) the taxes they pay are not reflective of the number of days they actually conduct business. They pointed out that shutting liquor shops in Zarqa does not prevent anyone, much less an alcohol abuser, from purchasing liquor in Amman or Jerash. But more importantly perhaps, the liquor shop owners expressed concern that the act of the authorities could become a form of "collective punishment" that they believe is no inducement to responsible behaviour on the roads besides being undemocratic in nature. Many agree it is time for the state to modernise its ways in dealing with bad drivers on the road.

**MOROCCAN DELIGHTS:** An evening of tea and tasty Moroccan sweets highlighted the gourmet side of the celebration marking the accession to the throne of King Hassan II earlier this week. On the more serious side, the InterContinental Hotel's Mukhtar I and Mukhtar II halls filled up with a dazzling guest list of royalty, ministers, foreign diplomats, parliamentarians, journalists and other society notables in a strong show of brotherly ties between the two countries. Among the assemblage were Prince Ra'ad Ben Zeid and Princess Majda, Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti and his wife Fatin, Minister of Transport Samir Kawar, Minister of Industry and Trade Ali Abul Raghib, Minister of Post and Communications Jamal Sarairah, Secretary General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Nayef Hadid and his wife Laila. Hosted by Moroccan Ambassador Mohammad Al Taher Bauani, the packed event was accompanied on the sidelines by a Jordan Television special programme on the westernmost Maghreb nation.

**MARRYING IN FASHION:** Adding to the throngs of people flowing in and out of

Amman's oldest five-star hotel last week were about 300 guests, invited to attend the nuptials of an Iraqi couple who had lived as far apart as Baghdad and London. Scouting about on the night of the wedding, two of our own JT sleuths were told that the price tag per invited guest ran a steep JD 70 versus the record JD 50 that we all had heard about before. But that price was said to include a breakfast "the morning after" as is purported the Iraqi custom. (We were not able to gather whether the food included baches.) The party's colour theme was classic, with flower girls attired in white dresses and black waist sashes, and dainty white satin ballet slippers. Entertainment lined up The Lions group of musicians who geared up in lime green and yellow blazers, and black tie with colour polka dots. An unusual treat was the appearance on stage of French belly dancer "Celine" as well as prominent Iraqi singer Kazm Al Saber... If this week's wedding is an indication, Amman, not unknown for its lavish wedding parties, can perhaps look forward to a season or two of flamboyant, not-to-be-outdone, celebrations of holy matrimony, that would keep some people talking for weeks after the event is actually over.

**MIRAGE IN ISRAEL:** Although few here may be aware of it, people in Israel are still talking about the sell-out performances of the



Kamel Mahadin

Jordanian rock group Mirage while on a four-city concert tour. Attended mostly by Arab-Israelis and a considerable crowd of Iraqi and Moroccan Jews, the group's concerts were a big hit. Group members Talal Abul Arab, Aida Abu Nuwar, her husband Wael Abu Nuwar and Haitham Al Nasser were greeted with open arms and treated most hospitably during their stay. One cultural critic on this side of the river said of the group "They are great and very brave, I'm sorry I couldn't get a ticket to see them myself when I was visiting there."

**NEW LINK IN A GROWING CHAIN:** Stepping into new waters also is Chairman of the Department of Architectural Engineering at the University of Jordan Kamel Mahadin who has been chosen to assume the role of "Jordan PRIN" ("Point Relais d'Information" or "National Information Link") in which he will be in a position to inform those interested about the European Union-sponsored Med-Campus programmes for universities in the Mediterranean. Med-Campus deals with international relations among campus communities. This year there are 103 Med-Campus projects funded by the EU on annual basis totalling \$8 - 10 million a year. Three years ago, the University of Jordan had 5 projects at start of its participation in Med-Campus. Currently, three such projects, totalling 350,000 ECUs (JD 250,000) are with Dr. Mahadin's academic first love, i.e., the Department of Architecture. They are projects in landscape architecture and conservation and tourism development of coastal areas such as the Zara region along the Dead Sea. As the Jordan PRIN, Dr. Mahadin says he will inform people of better bridging with the EU universities, encourage more initiatives with campus communities within the Mediterranean Arab countries, provide a source of information about campus research, training, and activities within Mediterranean universities involved in Med-Campus programmes, and pay special attention to those universities not yet familiar with Med-Campus programme in Jordan. Dr. Mahadin, who just completed an architectural consultancy to AL al Bayt university in designing campus buildings and master plans for their housing-expansion, is cognisant of the value of peace to the region, particularly in the field of education. As Jordan PRIN, Dr. Mahadin believes that the new vision of peace allows people to work within a relaxed atmosphere, opens new channels and provides better for the coming generations. His commitments to regional and international cooperation include being in charge of the University of Jordan's regional office for cooperation with the University of the Mediterranean, and as coordinator of the Agha Khan Unit for Islamic Architecture at the University of Jordan.

One of the few landscape consultants in the Middle East Dr. Mahadin is currently writing a book on "Vernacular Architecture of Southern Jordan," documenting twelve villages of the south — a topic close to his heart since childhood when he travelled and lived in 16 towns and villages in the West Bank and Jordan, during the 25 years when his father, Ottallah Mahadin, served as governor of several districts. Dr. Mahadin is married to another Karaki, Khalida Maayta. The couple have four children and live near the university campus. A Ph.D. graduate from Texas A & M University in the U.S., Dr. Mahadin is well-known for his travel sketches and his collection of 300 small water colours depicting scenes from all over the world. Some of his work was featured in a recent University of Waterloo (Canada) publication of the works of 60 international architects entitled "Between Lines: From Doodles to Composition."

Jennifer Hamarneh

## New film portrays life of famed Castrato

By Jane Morrison  
Reuter

**BRUSSELS** — The celebrated Castrati Singers of the 18th century had the angelic voices of choirboys made powerful by adult lungs.

Such voices have not been heard since a papal ban at the turn of this century prohibited the castration of small boys to produce the Castrati.

But the makers of a new film about Farinelli, one of the most famous of the Castrati, have recreated his voice using a male and a female opera singer and some computer wizardry.

Modern day singers do not have the range or power of the Castrati, said Gerard Corbiau, the director of Farinelli.

"So I had a completely crazy idea. Why not put two voices together, one of a man and one of a woman," said Corbiau in a magazine interview. The voices of Polish soprano Ewa Mallas Godlewska and American countertenor Derek Lee Raga were fed into a computer and welded together note by note to produce the Castrati sound. The voices of the last Castrato, Alessandro Moreschi, was recorded in 1902 to 1904. But they are the only surviving recordings and the quality is poor.

Farinelli, whose real name was Carlo Broschi, led the lifestyle of a modern day pop star. He sang for royalty and made love to beautiful women — a Castrato was sexually able but sterile.

As the Castrati grew into adults, they developed larger than normal rib cages and lungs from the hours of singing,

giving them extremely powerful voices.

They had a wider vocal range and could hold notes much longer than ordinary singers, sometimes for more than a minute.

Castrato singers were extremely popular throughout Europe in the early 20th century after Pope Leo XIII banned the use of the Castrati in the papal choir in 1902.

The voice of the last Castrato, Alessandro Moreschi, was recorded in 1902 to 1904. But they are the only surviving recordings and the quality is poor.

As the Castrati grew into adults, they developed larger than normal rib cages and lungs from the hours of singing,

theatre and lived in England from 1734 to 1737.

The last 22 years of his career were spent in Spain, where he was personal singer to two Spanish kings. He retired to Italy a very wealthy man, around 1760 and died in 1782.

Corbiau, working with his wife Andree, focuses on Farinelli's emotionally-charged relationship with his elder brother Riccardo, a mediocre composer.

The brothers share everything, including women.

They grow apart but are reconciled in Spain at the end of the film, which is based only loosely on the singer's life.

Born in 1705, Farinelli travelled and performed throughout Europe. He starred in a London

composer George Frideric Handel.

At one of the film's high points, Farinelli performs from a stolen copy of one of Handel's works to audience cries of "one God, one Farinelli."

Corbiau's film won a Golden Globe Award in the United States for Best Foreign Film and has been nominated for an Academy Award for Best Foreign-Language Film.

The brothers share everything, including women.

Farinelli opened at the end of 1994 to packed cinemas in Belgium, France and Switzerland and has been bought by distributors in 36 countries. It opens in the United States on March 17.

Much of the plot centres around Farinelli's rivalry with the London-based

very much a European production.

"In the film we respected the languages of history. It is very natural. French was the court language everywhere. The languages are part of the film's music," said producer Dominique Janne.

### Thoughts for this week

Nothing annoys a man as to hear a woman promising to love him "forever" when he merely wanted her to love him for a few weeks — Helen Rowland, American writer, journalist and humourist (1876-1950).

That which is everybody's business is nobody's business — Izaak Walton, English writer (1593-1683).

The old forget. The young don't know — Japanese proverb.

## Of keyboards and mice

By Jean-Claude Elias

In the world of information technology, and more particularly in the personal computers (PC) field, the general trend is definitely toward "faster, more powerful, less expensive, smaller, better and above all friendlier." This euphoric feeling however hides a deceptively simple problem — yes we can call it a problem — that still remains unsolved — keyboard typing.

The widespread usage of the computer mouse has drastically reduced the need to key in letters or control the cursor movement from the PC keyboard. Still, being able to type, in order to enter text and/or commands is a skill one cannot ignore or neglect when working with PCs, at the risk of reduced efficiency.

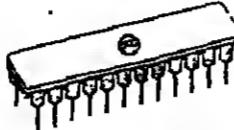
How can you convince someone who wishes to become proficient with computers to take typing courses? His or her first obvious reaction would generally be: "...I am not planning to be a typist but a computer pro..." This is perfectly understandable, but there doesn't seem to be a way around this difficulty for the time being.

In the last few years, the industry has offered a couple of "non-keyboard" solutions for data entry. Efforts have also been made in order to make these solutions affordable to home users and small businesses. Though they did not really fail, none has succeeded in replacing the keyboard or even come close to it in terms of practicality and efficiency.

Scanners have become quite popular recently. These photocopier-like machines take sheets of printed text, read them thanks to an optical sensor and send the text to the computer. No need for typing. Almost a miracle solution. Unreliable and expensive a few years ago, scanners have been much improved on both the technical and the cost aspects. The OCR (Optical Character Recognition) software that works in conjunction with scanners has also been greatly enhanced. Of course, they are useful only when the printed text is already available on paper. If you are writing original material, you still have to use a regular keyboard and type in your work.

Another alternative, still in its infancy is voice

## chip talk



recognition. With inexpensive hardware and software options, easily found in Jordan, one can speak in a standard microphone connected to a PC and see the spoken words being printed on the screen. Instead of browsing through long menus and sub-menus, one can also give instructions and send commands to the computer via the same microphone. The system however is not well tuned and has many flaws. It is easily fooled by ambient noise and needs to be "trained" before being used. This involves going through a process of defining all the functions one intends to use, make the system recognise one's voice, speak with a sustained tone, and so forth.

Even when voice recognition is perfected — and it is certainly going to be — it won't make the keyboard obsolete; if only when you'd rather work in silence and do no want everybody in the room to listen to what you're doing. All those reluctant to learn typing should take a deep breath and start learning now. The sooner the better.

One doesn't need to be a perfect typist. Most people with some experience of PCs use only 4 of 5 fingers, and at random, to type. What matters is to reach an acceptable speed and comfort levels in order to concentrate on actual computing rather than searching for the characters location on the keyboard.

Now that computer usage has become an official part of schools curriculum, finding a way to teach typing to the young is more important than ever. Unless someone can come up with a better way to enter data.

### BELIEVE IT OR NOT

**■ In the 17th century, a wealthy Dutchman bartered 17,000 pounds of cheese, 4 oxen, 8 pigs, 12 sheep, a bed and some clothes for only one tulip bulb.**

☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

**■ In 1943, a new volcano erupted in a Mexican farmer's ranch.**

☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

**■ In the late 18th century, the elders of a French village roamed the streets on the Love Day shouting the names of unmarried men and girls at legal age of marriage.**

☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

**■ In the 10th century, the law of divorce in Wales County, Britain, stipulated the transfer of the nursery of a family's tame cat to the husband immediately after divorce.**

☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

**■ A Californian engineer designed houses in the shape of snails and hornets' nests and supplied them with special materials to get sun-baths and huge wings to produce ventilation.**

☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

### LET'S CHAT IN ARABIC

**— Have you ever met him before?**

**Hal sabqa wa'an qabaltahn fee bayatik.**

**— Come and sit beside me. Ta'alha wajless bejanibi.**

**— It's the biggest shop in Jordan.**

**Imamah akbar mahal fil-Ordonn.**

**— Children are the best critics. Al-afsal aldal nuzzad.**

**— He was born blind and deaf.**

**Wolida sama wa-asam.**

**— Why are you asking the same silly question?**

**Lemata tas'aloni nafsas su'al as-sakheef.**

**— Are you single, married or divorced?**

**Hal anta azzab, mutazawwif am mutal'iq.**

**— He denied had had stolen her jewellery.**

**Ankara annahn sarqa mujaw'harratsha.**

**— I feel disappointed since she made no progress.**

**Ash'or bekhabubet amal le'annaha lam tobrez takaddoman.**

## Faith in the future is about reading between the lines

By Samer Ghaleb Bagaaen

Have you noticed that there are certain bottles and jars in your kitchen that never get consumed? They may be things you bought on a whim, things that guests brought as a present or things that you bought on holiday and that seemed wonderful idea at the time. But the moment for opening and consuming all these things has somehow come and gone. Yet they remain unused. Just like many of our talents!

If the art of building has become a fundamental expression of our technological ability, of our social and spiritual objectives and of humanity's sense of harmony and ethics, why then are we stripping human motivation bare in our art — if we can call it that — of building? Our buildings are far from inspiring and our city neither celebrates our society nor respects nature.

I am not writing any of this out of anger, rather out of bitterness. And it's not just the state of our architecture that I am bitter about. It is everything we do. From the way we talk to each other to the way we talk about each other. I am aware however that, throughout, I have set my standards far too high, but I can find ample justification for this. You only have to look at the way we set criteria for everything we do over here.

So it will only be fair to ask whether, in these last years of this century, we are who we are or whether we are who we hope and think we have become?

Confused? You ought to be. Let me see if I can make this any clearer; look at the way we build roads in Amman.

Why is it that we decide to build a one mile stretch of a new major highway in two months when surely we can execute the job far more effectively in six. In any case, nobody has come to us with an explanation as to why the building of this road has had to be

completed so quickly. We have waited for over ten years for it, so surely we can wait for a few more months if it means that we would not have to start patching up the base course that was so hastily laid when it begins to give way in a few months' time.

Surely it makes more sense to spend the money we have to spend making sure that every existing street in this city is made both fit and safe for both the pedestrians and the vehicles using it. We should be doing this rather than creating more streets that would be declared both unfit and unsafe by any standards.

If a street needs a pavement, we should have one built. If the existing pavement is weathered, we should have it replaced. If we think we need a pedestrian crossing somewhere, we should have one made. If we think that a tunnel crossing for pedestrians is needed, we should have one built. If we think we need more, we should have more built. At any rate, such crossings should be institutionalised and not built as mere "white elephants". Just try crossing the streets around the bus depot in Abdali and you will see exactly what I mean.

We have streets, even in the newest areas of Amman, that start at one end at ten metres wide and ends up at fifteen metres at the other. We have streets in strictly residential areas that are over thirty metres wide. We have a roundabout that is ten metres in diameter sitting in the middle of fifty-metre wide two-road junction. I should know. This last monstrous piece of "design" is just outside my doorstep.

But everything that is wrong with our city is out there just outside all our doorsteps, and if we do not even begin to learn to care then we are not going to get anywhere. We have a long and difficult way ahead of us. And a lonely voice will not be able to cure the ills of the city.

## ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

By Mohammad A. Shuqair

### JOKES

**★ The seventh-grade class which my brother teaches was holding a magazine-subscription sale. The morning after the sale started one boy reported that he had already sold \$20 worth.**

**"How did you manage to sell so many so quickly?" my brother asked.**

**"I sold them all to one family," the boy replied.**

**"Their dog-bit me!"**

**★ On a crowded street recently a policeman wheeling an abandoned baby in its carriage towards the police station was startled to hear a small boy call out, "Hey, what's the kid done?"**

**★ A customer once called the photographic department of Macy's, New York City, to ask if it would enlarge a snap shot of her son. Of course it would. Then she wanted to know if his hat could be removed — she would rather have the enlargement without it. That, too, could be done; but on which side did he part his hair, and was it straight or curly?**

**"Don't be silly," snapped the woman. "You'll see that when you take his hat off!"**

### BANK OF KNOWLEDGE

1. What is an Indian Rajah?
2. What is the Kremlin?
3. What is a still-room?
4. What is meant by "taking pot-luck"?
5. What is the Pope's palace called?
6. What is a job lot?
7. What is a jenner?

### PUZZLES

#### SCENIC ACROSTIC

If you fill in the correct letters horizontally, the two ringed vertical columns will give the name of a natural wonder of the world.

1. Poom Lim survived 133 days alone on a .....
2. En-lil-i might be the first known personal .....
3. .....is the most widely spoken language.
4. Loughborough, Leicestershire, is well-known for.....
5. David Bryant won or shared 12 ..... championships.

## Director reaps comedy from Russia's rough transition

By Judith Ingram  
The Associated Press  
NEW YORK — Ask a Russian on a bad day what colours his world, and you're likely to hear a depressing litany of complaints: Poverty, crime, corruption and hypocrisy, for starters.

Film director Yuri Mamin greets that list with a broad smile.

"Take our Russian reality too seriously, and

you'll give yourself a heart attack. But look closer, and you'll see that our hard, uncomfortable life contains a lot of funny aspects," he said, sinking back into the couch of his New York hotel suite.

Misery loves a laugh once in a while, and Mamin has found a rich trove of comedy material in post-Communist Russia. American viewers got a taste of his humour

when Mamin's 1993 film, *Window To Paris*, began its U.S. run recently.

As the movie begins, its hapless hero, Kolya, is steadily losing all he had. Without a home, he's spending nights in the housing-starved Soviet Union. The apartment is stuffed with upright pianos, which the inhabitants use to store boxes of macaroni, and overrun with chickens, ready sources of eggs and an

occasional soup.

Kolya's new neighbours carry off most of the antique furniture that belonged to the old woman who lived in the room until her death. But they leave behind a wardrobe, in which Kolya and his apartment-mates discover a window that deposits them on a rooftop — in Paris.

Their new city is suffused with light and colour, inviting cafes and markets stuffed with fresh produce.

*Window To Paris* follows the Russians as they travel between the two worlds, carrying bags and cars in one direction and homesickness in the other, and alternately repelling and enticing their French neighbours to join them in Russia.

In their travels back and forth, they test myths about foreign lands — dreamscapes of wealth and high culture — and their attachment to mother Russia, where they fondly remember long nights sitting round the kitchen table, sharing a bottle of vodka, a pickle and big ideas.

While a fresh pair once a year might cost less than \$100, the solutions and enzyme pills add about \$150 to \$200 a year to that total, eye doctors say.

Convenience is really the driver," said Gary Kunkle, president of Johnson and Johnson Vision Products Inc. "People who drop out say it is the hassle and inconvenience of lens care and this eliminates that."

Conventional contact lens wearers must perform

make a choice: to accept their lot at home or choose exile, as generations of Russian artists did in Paris.

"The striking thing about Russians is that we don't want to live at home, and we can't live abroad," Mamin said. "It's a tragic situation — and a very comic one, too."

At the start of his six-day U.S. trip to promote *Window To Paris*, Mamin found his own mind wandering nervously back to home, where a government committee was deciding whether to subsidise his next film.

Russian cinema has entered a netherworld between state support and the free market. The Soviet system of control over all aspects of filmmaking, from vetting scripts to booking runs in government-owned movie theatres across the country, is gone.

So is the funding the system guaranteed — and filmmakers are struggling to find the money to shoot films to compete with the American and other imports that dominate Russia's movie screens.

Ultimately, as the window is closing, they must

most. *Window To Paris* was a rare, home-grown hit with Russian audiences, and its relationship with the movie's French co-producers and distributors suggests that it can attract foreign investors.

Still, he complains, even investors with deep pockets won't venture to sink money into a film that does not have even partial funding. The only source of that funding in Russia remains the state. So far,

the government has been reluctant to treat Mamin's comedies seriously, he said.

"Is it normal not to give money for a film that can attract millions of viewers and be recognised at festivals abroad?" he asked.

"Such films should be given a green light. But there's no thinking ahead."

Mamin is passionate about saving the Russian film industry, bard-hit by the shrinking state budget, high inflation and newly unfettered competition from foreign imports in movie theatres and on video. The solution he proposes is simple: Ploughing movie revenues

back into filmmaking. Even before *Window To Paris* opened in Russian theatres, Mamin said, it was available on pirated videos.

"This money ends up in the pockets of 1,000 small-business men who steal not only American and European films, but ours, too," he said.

Mamin clearly thrives on the new creative freedom in Russia, and the rich subject matter, but the 45-year-old director admitted that the endless chase after funding was dispiriting.

Time and again, he returned to one of the film's key images, speaking almost wistfully of a man bouncing up and down, up and down on a trampoline.

"All you can do calmly, on your own, is jump," he said. "But things get harder as soon as you get off the trampoline. Here they force you to do things differently. In another place they interfere with your work."

He paused gloomily for a moment, as if he'd forgotten his own best antidote to life's hard knocks. And then he laughed.

### 1st one-day-only disposable lenses introduced

NEW YORK (AP) — Contact lens makers have taken disposability to its ultimate level — lenses you wear for one day and dump in the trash.

Convenient? Yes. You'll never buy another bottle of lens cleaner. You'll never awaken with crusty eyes or fogged vision after wearing your lenses to bed.

But you'll pay about \$700 a year. Johnson and Johnson, the company that introduced first disposable lenses in 1987, will launch the first one-day-only product. 1-day Acuvue lenses will be available nationally, following 1½ years of

test marketing in several states.

Competitor Bausch and Lomb began test marketing its own version, called New Day, in four states a month ago.

Optometrists say the new lenses provide the best vision, comfort and safety available, but the high price will deprive them to many.

"If you're making \$700,000 a year, it may be worth it for an individual to pay \$700 a year to get the comfort and convenience that a one-day disposable lens offers," said Dr. Kenneth Lebow, chairman of the American</p

about  
linesBy Michael Kuchwara  
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Jerry Lewis is making faces.

Bug eyes. Grand canyon-sized smile. A mock frown. The goofy grin that has made the comedian recognisable around the world.

Cracking jokes and cackling to no one in particular, Lewis methodically mugs his way through a dozen or so poses. After 63 years in show business (he started at age 5), the man knows how to give photographers what they want.

During those six decades, Lewis has worked just about everywhere — from hotels to nightclubs to television and, of course, Hollywood. The one place Lewis hasn't played is Broadway.

It's an oversight he rectified on Feb. 28 when he reopened the *Damn Yankees*, the hit musical revival that has been on hiatus during the lean box-office months of

January and February.

In the show, which is set in the 1950s, Lewis plays the devil who orchestrates the fondest fantasy of an aging Washington senators baseball fan. He transforms the man into a young baseball hero who leads the senators in their quest for an American League title.

It's not the musical's largest role, but the part is showy — and Lewis is taking his responsibility seriously. He went into training, vowing to drop 25 pounds (11 kilograms) before his first performance. The goal: 170 pounds (77 kilograms), his perfect weight, he says, to play eight performances a week.

"I have six more pounds to go — and they will be gone," Lewis said confidently during an interview the other day in a Tony Manhattan Hotel suite. Dressed in a casual navy blue jacket and a bright red sports shirt, the youthful Lewis doesn't look he'll be 69 years old on March 26.

Maybe it's the result of his three-month regimen — four miles (6.4 kilometres) on the treadmill in the morning, then four hours with his longtime drama coach Joe Bernard, then four more miles (6.4 kilometres) on the treadmill in the afternoon. All this on 800 calories a day.

Lewis has been a physical comedian for all of his show-business career. He has fallen off tables, balconies, a chandelier or two and onto a variety of surfaces, most of them more than a little hard. He is a descendant of Charlie Chaplin and a predecessor of today's hottest star, Jim Carrey. The man made people laugh simply by falling down.

"I took my first fall at 5 years old," Lewis says, "and I am paying for it now. Doing my own stunts was the biggest mistake I ever made. I just never ever allowed anyone else to do my work for me. I felt that was wrong."

Today, he endures constant back pain as the result of a spinal injury caused by all that clowning around.

"Yet I would do it all over again," Lewis says. "It's just such a good feeling of completion to finish a stunt."

Where did he learn the stuff of being funny?

Without hesitation, he says, "my father." Danny Lewis was a longtime Vaudeville performer and also played Burlesque and the Borscht Belt, the U.S. summer resort hotel circuit in the Catskill Mountains. The comedian talks about his father with the reverence of a true fan.

"Anything you ever saw me do — my father did — only better," Lewis says. "He molded me. I watched every performance my father did except when he was in Burlesque or on the road.

"My father was absolutely the most versatile man I've ever seen. He danced as good as Astaire, he played instruments, he did mime, he conducted

the orchestra. He was my hero. He should have been the biggest star in the world."

When Lewis was doing his first film in Hollywood in the late 1940s, he asked his father, "why didn't you push a little more — you could have entertained millions rather than the small audience you reached in the Catskill Mountains?"

The father answered simply, "if I had done that I wouldn't have gotten any more satisfaction. I fed my wife and son. I feel responsible in that I have met my duties and that I am making people happy."

Lewis has found happiness with his family — his second wife, Sandee, and his 2-year-old daughter, Danielle. She is his first daughter, after five sons from his first marriage.

"Danielle is my centre," Lewis says with proud enthusiasm. "She's part of my second lifetime. For me, she is what I didn't have at 18. At that time, I was so busy with myself.

"I laugh at the same things that make everybody else laugh," he says. "You can teach someone to be funny, but you can't teach them 'funny bones.' You're born with that. I could teach someone to say funny things or to delineate a funny notion. But you can't instill timing. You have to have funny bones to feel that beat," he says as he snaps his fingers in unison with his own speech patterns.

The timing was perfect.



**Jerry Lewis plays the clown in the film Hardly Working**



**Supermodel Claudia Schiffer during a recent holiday on the (left) relaxes on a boat in the Balearic Island (AFP photo)**

## Claudia Schiffer and her book

### A model goes private in public

By Herbert Riehl-Heyse

MUNICH — It's all very exciting, though maybe a little crowded, but that's just the proof that this is all very exciting. The entire Hilton Hotel is full of people accompanying the author, guarding the author, being led to her, admitted into her presence. In situations like that things have to be organised.

Before me it's the turn of the people from Radio Gong (ten minutes) and the newspaper *Tiroler Tageszeitung* (also ten minutes). After me it's the Austrian tabloid *Kronenzeitung*, Radio Varivari, the North Bavarian Newspapers Circle, who will presumably surround the author.

She has 65 interview dates in two and a half days. Gudrun Rohe, the press spokeswoman of the Heyne Publishing Company, can't remember a greater media furor in the history of German publishing.

That's understandable: The book that's being pushed by this sales campaign is called *Claudia Schiffer — in private*.

That's the author's name too, because the people otherwise listed in the publishing details are a text editor and an interviewer who reports the most important details about *Claudia* in the third person. Such details, for example, as that when she's at home in Rheinberg "she saunters along the small town's streets quite normally." Quite confusing that, because of course you'd expect her to be wearing a flowing skirt and doing a little twirl every third step.

Be that as it may. What's certain is that we will soon be talking to the "most beautiful woman in the world" (page 49), who is currently Germany's only world star" (Gudrun Rohe). This is a highlight in the life of a journalist, even if he suspects that the comment on page 58, "she's a star of the kind you can touch", isn't meant to be taken literally.

In any case, it's fantastic that she got up at seven in the morning even for me so that coiffeur Gerhard Meir and Munich's most important make-up expert

can make her pretty. Now I quickly put on the name tag they've given me so that she'll know who she's talking to in the course of this very private conversation. All that's left to do now is for me to come up with some halfway intelligent questions and make sure I deliver them in as cool a manner as possible. I just hope my jacket fits me properly.

In the end it's not such an ordeal. Claudia (today she's wearing a little black number by Chanel) is very nice. The first thing you do is worry whether she gets enough to eat. Yes, she says, though unfortunately she is one of those girls who really have to watch their weight. As to the interviews, she says, she really likes doing them, it really is "a great feeling that so many journalists are interested in my my."

Things get even more interesting when we start talking about whether she's afraid that later on in life when all the hullabaloo about her fame has subsided she might not know what to do with herself and be depressed. No,

she says, it's possible to be happy without being famous. What's more she's so busy, opening a restaurant, and working on a second book. For the moment, however, she seems to prefer being bap- py and famous.

Then my 25 minutes are up and outside in the corridor there's a great deal of pushing and shoving that won't be without consequences. A gigantic wave of Schifferitis is poised to break over Germany (and afterwards over Italy). Claudia is going to be on talk-master Gottschalk's show, and in programmes aired by the TV broadcasters ART and ZDF. Everybody except Claudia seems to know that she's going to be confined in a comedy programme. No-one from Germany's leading news magazine *Der Spiegel* is there, and the press spokeswoman says they wouldn't be given an interview anyway because of the nasty things they wrote about "models' megalomania."

That doesn't matter, as long as everything works out. Some 50,000 copies of the remarkably plain little book have already been ordered. And there will be many more orders. Fran Rohe is very happy when she compares all this to the frustrating time she usually has.

Exactly a year ago, she says, it was her job to market a book written by this "incredible woman" called Chrisita Noble who helps street urchins in Vietnam. She telephoned around to publicise that book for six weeks and managed to organise only 20 interviews. Only eleven people turned up to an evening lecture and discussion in Hamburg's museum of Ethnology for which the author had spent 19 hours flying in especially from Vietnam. And this time? "Finally the journalists are queuing up."

On really, we're queuing up? What an incredible comment. There's no comparison, after all, Ms. Schiffer is a world star, and Ms. Noble isn't! — And if this weren't all so very exciting maybe we would think about why that's so — *Sueddeutsche Zeitung*.

## Hero Altman turns into fashion world's bete noire

By John Follain

Reuter

PARIS — A few months ago, the stars of the French fashion world were falling over themselves to shine in Robert Altman's spoof movie *Pret-A-Porter* (Ready-To-Wear).

This weekend, the tall and lanky American director has been forced on to the defensive in the capital of haute couture as some stylists angered by his light

satire aim their thimbles and scissors at him.

After a mixed reception from reviewers in the United States, Altman and his promotion team have brought their baby to Paris. Unveiled to a lukewarm reception at a weekend press screening, it went on general release in France last week.

It has already prompted heavy criticism from Chanel's designer Karl Lagerfeld and from fashion writers.

"Audiences may find

in the central French city of Lyon, transport authorities banned the poster advertising it as too steamy. The poster shows a frontal shot of three naked women but the title of the film hides their private parts.

The keynote image of the film is a collection in which models parade naked down the catwalks, symbolising the vanity and futility of the fashion world.

"Audiences may find

his film funny but people like me who love and are passionate about fashion are disappointed... In *Pret-A-Porter*, you never see anybody working," said Suzy Menkes, fashion editor for the Paris-based International Herald Tribune.

"Altman hasn't understood the joys and pleasures of the sector... He hasn't understood the details and the collections that he filmed," she complained.

Asked about the rum-

pus he has prompted in the fashion world, Altman

told the Sunday newspaper *Le Journal Du Dimanche*: "The rumpus was there already. It's not my fault... People don't like the way I treat their universe. So what?"

"The truth is that I think the same thing about all the circles I have described in my films where people are full of their own importance," he said.

But Altman, whose The Player derided Hollywood, acknowledged: "If I'd thought the film would

have caused so many problems, I would definitely not have made it."

Altman's plot involves the sudden death of the president of French fashion's governing body, while in a limousine with a mysterious Russian played by Marcello Mastroianni who immediately becomes suspect.

Bacall, cast as an ex-Vogue editor, buys out the fashion house of designer Simone Lowenthal (Anouk Aimée), the vic-

tim's mistress. Loren plays his wife.

Meanwhile Anne Eisenhower (Julia Roberts) a Houston Chronicle reporter, loses her baggage and spends the fashion week in bed with a Washington Post sports writer (Tim Robbins).

Altman has yet to receive complaints from journalists that he has failed to understand their profession.

## Male models take back seat to female superstars

By Samantha Conti

Reuter

ROME — They pout just like the women, put in as many hours on the catwalk and strut for the same designers, but the buck stops there. Boy, do they earn less.

Life is far from fair for male models, and there is only one explanation — fashion is a world dominated by women.

At Milan's ready-to-wear shows — the next one starts on March 5 — supermodels like Claudia Schiffer, Naomi Campbell and Carla Bruni will earn \$10,000 from each design-

er they work for.

Their male counterparts — men at the height of their careers — will earn half or sometimes even a third of that.

Modelling is one of few professions where women earn more than men. Industry experts say it is because women's faces — and bodies — make products more attractive, and the female clothing, accessories and cosmetics market is bigger.

"Men don't have the same leverage as women," said Calvin French, the head booker for men at Italy Model Management.

"We are paid because of what we sell, we are not paid because of what we we-

are. Compared to what we sell we are paid little, compared to what we are, we are paid a lot," said Italian supermodel Bruni.

"Men are not going to sell as many suits and they are not going to sell any creams, so they will not be paid as much as we are," she added.

Blue-eyed Bruni, like other supermodels, has often been criticised — called a vampire even — for what she earns.

Many of the men say they accept the nature of the business, and that they want to use modelling as a stepping stone to careers in the film or music indus-

tries. "Women have been degraded all their lives, men have been put on a pedestal, and now in this business women are put over men," said model Keith Mouse.

"That's just the way it's going to be. Men are going to have to suck it up and handle it or get out of the business," said Mouse, an American who modelled in Milan during ready-to-wear shows earlier this year.

Mickey Hart, a model from Luxembourg, said earning less than women did not bother him.

"You could ask whether

women if they work on becoming less snobby." French said that often, when a male model gets his first break, he starts to act too big for his boots.

"He may do a campaign for Mr. (Giorgio) Armani and then he (thinks) he is a star. "He starts to complain 'is this photographer good enough?' 'I don't like these clothes,'" French said. "These men forget that a model is someone who is supposed to show off the garment."

But Lisa Ovadia, the booking director for Men At Fashion model management in Milan, said the industry is changing rapidly and that the male supermodel could be around the corner.

"Since I started 12 years ago things have already changed. Magazines are becoming more and more interested in what men are doing," Ovadia told Reuters.

"French magazines and Italian magazines are doing pieces on the most beautiful men in the world and the men who make the most money. I think that men's bodies are an object of desire right now — they just need the media exposure."

## Getting back to basics

**For Palestine**  
Edited by Jay Murphy  
New York: Writers and Readers Publishing, Inc.  
1993.  
262 pages, soft cover \$14.95

*For Palestine* was compiled while the negotiations began at Madrid were in progress, but no results had emerged. It is a book with a purpose — intended to spark efforts to redress the dismal situation of Palestinians in the wake of the Gulf war. As the editor writes in the preface: "The world seems deaf and dumb to daily pleas of the Palestinian delegation... for an international force of protection for Palestinian civilians undergoing a stepped up Israeli assault and repression designed to break support for the peace talks" (p. i).

This message is hardly outdated in view of Israel's continued blockade of every small step towards Palestinian independence, and the Palestine Liberation Organisation's (PLO) recent call for an international push to implement the 1993 Oslo accords. At a time when the justice of the Palestinian cause is all but drowned in daily news of Arafat and Rabin squabbling over the messy details of the autonomy agreement, it is useful to get back to basics. The 17 essays, four interviews and two poems included in *For Palestine* do just that. Dealing with a wide variety of topics related to the Question of Palestine, the book takes stock of the Palestinian people's experience, and what their struggle has meant to others working to change U.S. policy in the Middle East.

The contributors to *For Palestine* include well-known scholars and political and political activists; many of their pieces were first published elsewhere. Most are Palestinians, Americans or Arab-Americans, but there are exceptions, such as the late Jean Genet and the Lebanese writer and leftist politician, Fawwaz Traboulsi. Four Hours in Shatila, Genet's highly personal description of wandering in the camp's alleys immediately after the September 1982 massacre, remains unrivaled in poetic expressiveness and moral impact. The same qualities are present in Traboulsi's poem, Beirut-Guernica, which juxtaposes the human experience of the 1982 siege of Beirut with Picasso's famous depiction of the Spanish Civil War. Sandwiched between these two is an interview with a Palestinian woman who participated in the PLO's defence of Beirut in 1982. Her

down-to-earth account of daily life during the siege is an effective complement to the more literary pieces of Genet and Traboulsi.

Most of the other essays focus either on the occupied territories or U.S. Middle East policy and how the question of Palestine is dealt with in America. Naseer H. Aruri's overview of the post-Gulf war situation was well chosen as the first essay, for it provides a backdrop for situating subsequent, more particular essays.

Unfortunately, some of the essays about the intifada are rather flat and lacking in originality, particularly Daoud Kuttab's *The Path of No Return: An Overview of The Intifada*. Despite the sweeping title, Kuttab's approach is highly selective; he comes close to reducing the intifada to the single dimension of being the prelude to the Madrid conference, thus neglecting numerous other dimensions. When recounting the causes of the intifada, he fails to mention the Gaza Strip except as "the stronghold of Islamic Jihad" (p. 95). This was hardly the whole story in 1987 when the intifada began in Gaza, and the Islamic forces were not the predominant ones.

Readers who see the intifada as a multidimensional, sometimes contradictory process, will find more food for thought in Hanan Ashrawi's essay on cultural revival, and Anita Vitullo's *Palestinian Women: Several Steps Back*.

Some of the most thought-provoking essays in *For Palestine* are those related to culture. Those who heard Kamal Boullata speak at Darat Al Fanous here in Amman last autumn, will be interested in his essay contrasting how Palestinian and Israeli artists, respectively, relate to space and nature in their works.

Censorship — a main obstacle to artistic creativity wherever it occurs — is the topic tackled by the American filmmaker Joan Mandell. Based on her own experience of making and distributing the documentary *Gaza Ghetto*, Mandell tells how censorship is involved at every major stage of the filmmaking process (p. 189). Not only was the film crew harassed by the Israeli army on location in Gaza but, upon returning to the U.S., Mandell writes: "I learned that I was involved in a war in this country — to redefine the limits of censorship" (p. 188). *Gaza Ghetto* was initially rejected by distribution agencies as being too pro-Palestinian, so Mandell eventually travelled herself to over 200 communities to show it.

For Palestine draws to a powerful conclusion with Noam Chomsky's scathing critique of U.S.-Israeli

rejection of all opportunities for peace over the years — until 1991, when they eyed the chance to dictate the conditions. Chomsky quotes Israeli journalist Danny Rubenstein's observation that the autonomy proposed by Israel and the U.S. for the Palestinians is like "a PoW camp, where the prisoners are 'autonomous' to cook their meals without interference and to organise cultural events" (p. 224). In Chomsky's estimation, the peace process begun in 1991 means that: "The peace process that the world has sought for many years can be consigned to the ash heap of history" (p. 229). The extensive historical documentation in Chomsky's essay, among others, makes *For Palestine* useful as a reference, as well as being an easily accessible review of the most recent decade of contemporary Palestinian history.

Sally Bland

## Of political courage and good will

### A Fire In Zion

By Mark Perry  
Morrow. (356 p)

*A Fire In Zion* offers an exceptional glimpse into the Palestinian-Israeli peace process, deep insight into the workings of both sides, and an almost accurate assessment of the real chances for peace.

Yet *A Fire In Zion* is far more than a haute-couture diplomatic garb. It tells the full story, in a down to earth factual narrative, of how two disparate and incongruous societies decided to make peace after a century of bloody sagas. Drawing on exclusive interviews with such pivotal figures as PLO chief Yasser Arafat, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, and Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, Perry goes beyond the headlines to reveal the stark realities of the machinations of realpolitik which actually brought the Palestinians and Israeli to the bargaining table at Oslo, Norway, and the signing of the peace agreement in Washington, D.C. on Sept. 13, 1993.

## BOOK REVIEWS

Perry asks, "Will it work?". To find out "The transaction has yet to be concluded."

In pursuit of finding out a substantive answer, Perry was granted exclusive interviews by key Palestinian and Israeli negotiators, namely, Hanan Ashrawi, Faisal Husseini and Hanan Ashrawi.

Perry also sought out interviews with a host of ordinary citizens, imams, priests, rabbis, homemakers, professionals, farmers, students and soldiers.

Perry came to the conclusion that it was due to such queer twists in the games of power politics, diplomatic chicanery, Sophistry, and mutual exhaustion that both sides were prompted to transform their perceptions of the empirical issues at stake and of each other. Yasser Arafat and other moderates within the PLO were beginning to lose support in the Arab countries; especially after the schisms in their ranks as a result of the Gulf War. The intifada had dragged on for years, and impacted heavily on the Israelis, for their part, feared losing their national unity and soul if they continued to rule over the Palestinians in the occupied territories. Israel has been created so that Jews would never again become victims, but not so that Jews themselves would become victimizers — besides, the erosion of moral support for Israel, by the international community, was beginning to tell.

At the end of *A Fire In Zion*, Perry concludes; will the one-hundred year war for the land of Palestine end? Will Palestinians and Israelis learn to live together?

There is no certain answer to these questions. Yet to enable both, Palestinians and Israelis, to predict the future, they must continue the arduous process of putting the past behind them, and to hold on to the tenets of the peace process — for the peace process, is the last and only entree for Palestinians and Israelis. The road the peace process is strown with stumbling blocks, both germane and put-up scenarios.

By definition, the peace process is designed to formulate a modus operandi with a view to harmonizing it into a modus vivendi.

The peace process is a process. It is not an end in itself.

*A Fire In Zion*, is an absolutely riveting treatise on a subject that needs leaders of riveting tenacity of political courage and good will.

Ludwig W. Tamai

## Want to learn a second language? Better start before puberty

By Daniel Q. Haney  
The Associated Press

ideal period to learn languages. After that, it becomes an increasingly frustrating, imperfect process.

Certainly many parents who have tried to learn a new language with their children have witnessed the dismaying ease with which youngsters can master the complexities of syntax and vocabulary.

Experts theorise that age 2 until puberty is the

Several studies, which were presented at a meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, delved into the conflicts between first and second languages.

Grace H. Yeni-Komshian of Maryland presented research on 220 Korean immigrants who learned

English as children and young adults. Despite having lived in the United States an average of 15 years, some still spoke with an accent.

She found that no one had much trouble with their consonants, but vowels were a different matter. Those who learned English by age 10 or 11 got 90 per cent of

their vowels right. But those who started English late speak better Korean than do those who learned it early. It appears that youngsters who start their second language after age 8 have a better chance of retaining their native language.

"It's almost 'easy come, easy go' during this period," she said.

Of those studied, only about 15 per cent could speak both English and Korean like natives. She said it appears that most bilingual people cannot be equally adept at speaking two languages.

Ms. Yeni-Komshian said her work fits with the prevailing theory that a critical age exists for learning languages. By

adolescence, the functional organisation of the brain is largely complete, making language acquisition a chore.

The University of South Florida's Winifred Strange, who also presented research on the topic, said that people who try to learn languages after adolescence tend to bear the new language with the accents of the old.

She said that's why, for instance, someone who speaks Chinese mixes up L's and R's. So in the classic waiter's mangling, "fried rice" comes out "fied lice."

"They really sound the same to them," she said. "They cannot tell the difference between those two sounds."

Kimbrough Oller of the University of Miami said some believe that bilingual people may never truly be good at speaking either language because of the burden of learning duplicate vocabularies and grammar rules.

He studies youngsters who are learning English and Spanish at the same time and compares them with children who speak just one language. While the bilingual children functioned well in both languages, their vocabulary did lag somewhat, because some words they knew in only one language, or the other.

## WEEKEND CROSSWORD

CROSS-PURPOSES  
By Arthur S. Verdesca

ACROSS  
1. Too inclusive  
2. One or another  
3. Indian memorial  
4. Heaven  
5. Ranked as in  
6. Cupid's  
7. Party letters  
8. Criteria  
9. Long-distance  
10. Long-drawn events  
11. Emergency  
12. Agreement  
13. Flies of the 37s  
14. Joe — V. Godel  
15. Universe  
16. Governing body  
17. Diagramless, 21 x 21  
18. James Barrick  
19. Art  
20. Weighty volumes  
21. Clock  
22. Dishes  
23. In the past  
24. Mystery  
25. The Shire State  
26. The Shire State  
27. Seligman  
28. Cross  
29. Cheese  
30. Of a grain  
31. Sancho's  
32. Kite  
33. Decorative  
34. Kitten  
35. Decorative  
36. Author of "On the  
37. Boats  
38. Acronym  
39. Playing house  
40. Grand  
41. Grand  
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44. Shant  
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## JWA head, 6 executives resign

By Sa'eda Kilani  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The President of the Jordanian Writers Association (JWA) and six members of its administrative committee who have been threatening to quit for the past two weeks resigned on Wednesday. The JWA general assembly will convene on an extraordinary session on April 7 to elect a new body.

Four members of the JWA's administrative body were absent from Wednesday's calm but short meeting. Basma Nasour, Yousef Damra, Yousef Abdul Aziz, and Zahair Abu Shayeh, who have been involved in running conflict with the resigees, did not show up.

Ma'nes Razzaz, the outgoing president, said he was

forced to resign because of the tense atmosphere and constant squabbles that dominated the meetings of the administrative body.

"We have not achieved anything for a whole year," Mr. Razzaz said. "We should give way for a new and harmonious administration."

One of the resigees, Hisham Gharaibeh, is expected to nominate himself for presidency. Mr. Razzaz, who supports Mr. Gharaibeh's nomination, said the coming elections will be different in terms of techniques and tactics to avoid future problems. He said the elections will be conducted on a bloc basis. Until now, nominees ran as independent.

"We could have had our

way and taken the decisions we want," said Mr. Razzaz, who has majority support in the JWA's administrative committee. "But this does not work out in a writers association."

Mr. Razzaz, a daily columnist at Al Dustour daily, said the weekly meetings of the administrative body were plagued by constant fights and clashes over the issue of normalization of cultural ties with Israel.

"No work has been done on cultural issues," he said. "We need a more effective leadership."

Fakhri Ka'war, JWA's former president and president of the Union of Arab Writers, is also expected to nominate himself for presidency.

**UNRWA launches bid to bridge deficit**

(Continued from page 1)

this year, we won't be able to do what we were doing last year. We have no operational reserves left, so we hope they (the donors) react accordingly," he said.

But following the first day's meeting, Mr. Turkmen said he felt that representatives of donor nations were in favour of an "undiminished continuance of UNRWA's services."

As delegates of 30 donor countries and host governments launched the meeting, representatives of UNRWA's area staff staged a strike in an appeal to donors to continue their support for the agency (see story on page 3).

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, quoted Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Kababiti as saying he had urged the inter-

national community to increase its aid to UNRWA and Jordan, to assist them in their responsibilities for Palestine refugees and displaced persons.

As of this year UNRWA has presented donor nations with a "five-year planning horizon" to coincide with the schedule laid down by the September 1993 declaration of principles signed by the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) and Israel.

The theory of the plan is to project expenditures over those five years, to label priorities and then present to donor countries the financial requirements.

In the past the agency submitted an annual or bi-annual budget to donors. At the opening session of

the two-day conference which continues today, Mr. Turkmen said, "I believe that this meeting will be a watershed... UNRWA has reached a crossroads and there are serious issues to be discussed."

The head of the Palestinian delegation to the meeting, Dr. Nabil Sha'ath, minister of planning and international cooperation in the Palestinian National Authority reaffirmed strong support for UNRWA.

Donors' "commitment to UNRWA enhances the Palestinian Authority's strategic option for peace," he said. "Strong support for UNRWA is our highest priority." "We would hate to see services curtailed. We would like to see you continue generously supporting the agency."

## Christopher launches new Mideast mission

(Continued from page 1)

tions.

Vice President Abdul Halim Khaddam said Syria would not make concessions to achieve peace with Israel and insisted on the need to boost the country's defences.

He said peace accords which were "not based on law and justice" neither guarantee peace for the strong party nor security for the weaker one.

"Israel, relying on its military force, is trying to make gains via the negotiations, but it should be aware that military superiority does not remain constant."

Mr. Khaddam said Syria must to "bolster its defensive capabilities."

Earlier Syria urged Mr. Christopher to come armed with new ideas and scorned Israel's latest offer of a partial withdrawal from the Golan Heights.

"We have to make of building our national shield a national responsibility which we should approach without hesitation," Mr. Khaddam said Wednesday.

"Despite the accords Israel has struck with three Arab parties, it is going ahead with promoting its fighting ability in spite of its current arms disintegration.

## Newspaper prices, ad charges to go up

(Continued from page 12)

newsprint was upward. The crunch on newsprint came when many producers round the world faced declining prices and a glut in the market and slowly halted production or shifted to alternative industries since the early 90s.

Another factor was a decline in the output of paper up in the wake of new environmental policies

adopted by many governments.

Ironically, the turn away from paper production came at a time when newspaper industry around the world was picking up, particularly with new publications springing up in the eastern bloc and the ex-Soviet republics and elsewhere in the Third World.

According to newsprint agents, the shortage has led to the creation of a "parallel" market where privileged

## Israel unveils 'separation' plan

(Continued from page 1)

using as a de facto foreign ministry. Last month, for example, visiting heads of the European Union raised a furor by holding meetings at the government was okking into the "realities on

the ground" as well as the "implications" of enforcing the law in the case of the Orient House.

Palestinians say the issue is at the centre of the peace process with Israel. They argue the Orient House is independent of the Palestinian Authority and the restrictions on it.

"We have always said that

the closing of the Orient House will jeopardise the peace process," Palestinian negotiator Ziad Amin Zayyad told reporters.

Peace Watch, an Israeli group monitoring the peace process with the Palestinians, said there are seven autonomy-related institutions operating in Jerusalem (see page 2).

## Informant testifies

(Continued from page 12)

prosecutors questioned Mr. Salem Tuesday about his history.

Mr. Salem testified that he was lying to impress people as an 18-year-old military man in Egypt, when he found himself driving a truck, stocking shelves and working as a security guard. "I was like a big shot in Egypt and all of a sudden I became just an immigrant," Mr. Salem said.

He testified that he began playing information to FBI agent Nancy Floyd in 1991 bragging that he was Egypt's military intelligence agency — he actually a technical officer — and Libya's leader Muammar Qaddafi, Iraq's President Saddam Hussein and Hussein. He knew none of these leaders.

He said he also told Ms. Floyd he "knew of military atomic capabilities of countries," though of the information he

passed on was true.

The rotund Salem, wearing glasses and a dark blue suit, had kept his hands folded in front of him until he began recounting his deceit. Then he clenched or rubbed his hands together.

"He's not going to survive cross-examination," said Lynne Stewart, the sheikh's lawyer. "He's completely changed all the facts."

After the 1990 assassination of militant Rabbi Meir Kahane in a New York City hotel, Mr. Salem said he was approached by the FBI and asked to infiltrate extremist groups. He said he declined until October 1991, when he needed money.

One of Mr. Salem's first tasks for the group he infiltrated was to create mailing labels for organizations. He testified that he immediately turned the list over to the FBI, which made the labels for him.

He said he was paid \$500 a week from 1991 until July 1992, when relations broke off between him and the FBI.

Dollar stabilises a little

(Continued from page 1)

helped halt a slide in the dollar that has seen it plunge to new record lows since Friday.

The European moves and Greenspan's comments came after Japan complained that the United States was not doing enough to protect its own currency, as the dollar plunged overnight in Asia to record lows of 1.3450 marks and 88.75 yen.

The signs that there was still some life left in the dollar encouraged some stock markets, and in London, the Footsie index tacked on 15.1 points or 0.5 per cent to end at 2,992.1 points, while the Paris bourse managed a moderate gain of 0.47 per cent, after suffering a 1.39 per cent loss Tuesday.

But the Frankfurt market remained nervous, with the DAX index dropping 1.37 per cent.

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# Prince Hassan: People, including refugees, make or break peace

The following is the text of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan's address to the UNRWA informal meeting of major donors and host governments that started yesterday in Amman.

IT IS A PLEASURE to address this informal meeting, held by UNRWA with representatives from all sides: Donors, host countries, and the Palestine Liberation Organization. I would like to take this opportunity to review some of the issues arising from the peace process, and to make a few suggestions.

The Palestinian refugee problem has always been one of the main elements of the Arab-Israeli conflict. Jordan has been directly affected, by dint of both geographical proximity and historical legacy. With its semi-arid landscape and very limited resources, natural and otherwise, my country has hosted three waves of involuntary migration. Jordan has had to accommodate more than one million extra people as a result of conflict in the region.

Realising the immense scale of the demographic component of the Arab-Israeli conflict, the international community established UNRWA in 1949. Jordan's partnership with UNRWA dates back to its inception in the aftermath of the first wave of Palestinian refugees to Jordan. I refer to our relationship as one of partnership, for we have worked together very closely through the years. Jordan accommodates the major bulk of the refugee population registered by UNRWA. It hosts nearly two thirds of all the listed refugees residing outside the West Bank and Gaza. 39.1 per cent of all registered refugees reside in Jordan; about 38.4 per cent reside in the West Bank and Gaza.

We have come along way towards resolving the Arab-Israeli conflict since the Madrid peace conference of October 1991. However, although the negotiations have so far touched upon the refugee problem, they yet have to find a satisfactory solution. The Declaration of Principles between the PLO and Israel stipulated that the issue of refugees would be addressed in the permanent status negotiations. Jordan's peace treaty with Israel accordingly lays out only principles for a resolution, and does not address the issue in substantive depth.

Article 8 of the Jordanian-Israeli treaty, which deals with refugees and displaced persons, recognises the magnitude and the human dimensions of the problem. The commitment is there to find a settlement in accordance with international law. The modality through which such a settlement can be realised is stipulated in the treaty through the following channels.

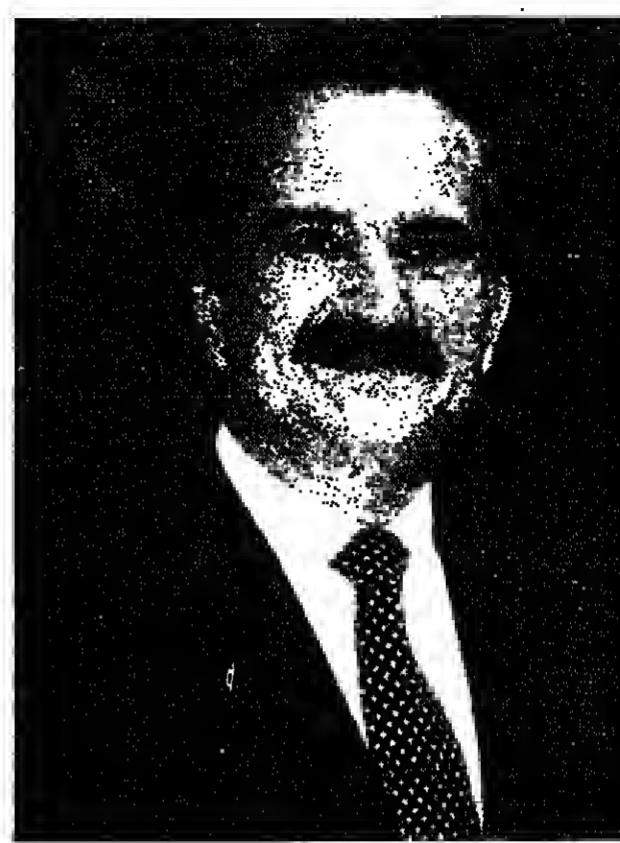
In the case of displaced persons, through a quadrilateral committee representing Jordan, the Palestinians, Egypt and Israel.

In the case of the refugees, in the multilateral and through tripartite or bilateral negotiations simultaneous with Israeli-Palestinian talks.

Jordan, being mindful of the human dimension, ensured that the treaty requires the parties to seek to alleviate human suffering. It also asks that the UN and other programmes of assistance be continued pending a final resolution. Any reduction or cutbacks in UNRWA's provision of essential services at this point, no matter what the reason might be, can only backfire on the peace process and reverse the positive progress that has been made. On the contrary, it is vital that UNRWA be supported and assisted more than ever in this delicate transitional phase. The agency has been instrumental in providing for the basic, everyday human needs of the refugees. In addition, it has already established sound structures for channelling assistance to health, education and social services. Such assistance is therefore both necessary and possible.

All of these things are vitally important, yet they are not an alternative to a solution that strikes the necessary balance between the rights of refugees and the responsibilities that states owe them, on the one hand, and the need to find creative answers to what, by definition, a delicate and composite problem, on the other.

As we move from peacemaking to peace-building, it is essential to address the human requirements of the peoples concerned. Last November, Amman hosted a Roundtable on the Human Dimension of the Middle East Peace Process, attended



"The Palestinian refugee problem has always been one of the main elements of the Arab-Israeli conflict. Jordan has been directly affected by dint of both geographical proximity and historical legacy."

by His Excellency Mr. Ilter Turkmen. The discussions were frank and constructive, although not always as optimistic as we might wish. The participants recognised that peace for coexisting, its benefits must be felt by those on the ground. In this context, regional discrepancies and disparities must be balanced out. These include key indicators such as income levels, education and health conditions, and technical know-how.

UNRWA can do a great deal to help make this vision a reality, but it will need international support, and it will need to plan ahead with a realistic time-frame. Human Resources Development must be the top priority for the region, although it cannot substitute for a principled solution to the refugee problem. Coordination between donors, host countries and organisations such as UNRWA will be vital if we are to maximise the opportunities. Failure would be catastrophic for the refugees, and will also have severe repercussions for host countries. It is worth bearing in mind that the largest age group in both the refugee camps and the host countries is 15-25. Further social unravelling must be

ing steps to promote domestic and foreign investment, and to encourage joint ventures.

Economic growth will create new jobs, reducing the rate of unemployment, alleviating poverty, and providing solid economic foundations for the future of the Middle East.

UNRWA will do a great deal to help make this vision a reality, but it will need international support, and it will need to plan ahead with a realistic time-frame. Human Resources Development must be the top priority for the region, although it cannot substitute for a principled solution to the refugee problem. Coordination between donors, host countries and organisations such as UNRWA will be vital if we are to maximise the opportunities. Failure would be catastrophic for the refugees, and will also have severe repercussions for host countries. It is worth bearing in mind that the largest age group in both the refugee camps and the host countries is 15-25. Further social unravelling must be

to secure basic education for our peoples.

But peace brings with it new opportunities for the region. The prospect of stability can help to generate a real peace dividend. In order to capitalise upon this, governments are planning and tak-

ing steps to promote domestic and foreign investment, and to encourage joint ventures.

Economic growth will create new jobs, reducing the rate of unemployment, alleviating poverty, and providing solid economic foundations for the future of the Middle East.

The law will not prevent children from accompanying their mother to jail, but it will try to set a minimum standard of care, Mr. Rizvi said.

Ms. Jilani's government is preparing a new law aimed at children younger than 12 who are in prison, including about 1,700 unaccompanied youngsters who face charges on their own ranging from loitering to murder.

It remains to be seen if

there will be any improvements.

The government often talks about curing such problems, but rarely comes up with the money.

Even Mr. Rizvi concedes the government is short of resources.

"Our problem is pushing the government to spend money," said Ms. Jilani.

"Things are moving forward

— slowly. That's something."

about what should be done with them and youngsters are seldom taken out. In the central city of Multan, there is an 11-year-old boy who has been in jail since birth, she said. "The diet is not good. The children are totally isolated socially. Most have no idea of what's going on outside the Adiala jail.

"I go to sleep at night and I think what if I have to live here for the rest of my life, and I cry," she says shyly.

Saima, like hundreds of children in Pakistan, has gone to jail with her mother, Nazreen, who is awaiting trial on theft charges and could receive a four-year term if convicted. In their stark, cramped cell devoid of furnishings, the children outnumber the women, 13 to 11.

Disgraced and destitute, jailed Pakistani women routinely take their young children with them because there is no alternative, said Hina Jilani of the Independent Human Rights Commission of Pakistan.

The group estimates about 300 children are in jail with their mothers.

Orphanages are scarce, and if the children were simply left behind it is quite possible they would be used as child labourers, a common practice in Pakistani workshops.

"If they don't go to jail with their mothers, they could end up on the street begging or being sold," Ms. Jilani said.

The children's fathers are often in jail, too, or have abandoned their families. Ms. Jilani said many of the women are in jail on charges brought by their husbands, who either want to marry again or have left the country and do not want their wives free while they are gone.

The law says children should be removed from imprisoned mothers at age seven, but it says nothing

about keeping women in prison with their children," Mr. Rizvi said. "But where can we keep them? There should be a separate institution for the children. Jails have a very negative psychological effect."

# Economy

## Dollar supremacy threatened, but no successor seen

TOKYO (R) — The dollar's supremacy as the world's key currency is under threat after its hammering on the money markets, but neither the mark nor the yen look likely to usurp the top spot for now.

Economists and monetary officials said in Tokyo Wednesday that the dollar's status had been badly shaken by its plunge against the German and Japanese currencies.

But for policy and economic reasons, neither of these currencies was likely to take

over the dollar's role as anchor of global markets any time soon, they said.

"The recent dollar collapse implies that the dollar's supremacy is seriously challenged," said C.H. Kwan, senior economist at Nomura Research Institute Ltd.

The dollar has been viewed as a focus of stability and a standard measure of value in world markets. It has comprised the vast majority of central banks' foreign reserves, has been the main currency used for foreign

trade by many countries, and has been seen as a "safe haven" during times of instability.

But the dollar's recent plunge, which took it to post-World War II lows of 88.75 yen and 1.3450 marks in Tokyo Wednesday, has seriously damaged this role.

Analysts said more and more nations, including cash-rich Asian and Middle Eastern central banks, prefer to hold the mark as a reserve currency, and have been reducing the proportion of their

dollar holdings amid a lack of confidence in U.S. monetary and fiscal policy.

This phenomenon "reflects their confidence in the Bundesbank's policies, which target medium- to long-term objectives with top priority on price stability," a senior German monetary official said in Tokyo.

However, the Bundesbank has never asked for the mark to assume the role of a reserve currency, he said.

Analysts doubted that the German central bank would be prepared to take on such a responsibility, which might force the Bundesbank to consider global monetary trends, not only Germany's economy, when setting policy.

Bundesbank President Hans Tietmeyer has said the country of the key currency should assume responsibility not only for itself but also for foreign investors.

"If the mark is held by many others, it will be exposed to more volatility," said a senior Japanese bank economist.

"This implies more difficulty in controlling the mark's value, which in turn would make it tougher for the Bundesbank to achieve its ultimate goal of price stability," he said.

As for the yen, economists said the Japanese currency had a long way to go to attain the quality demanded of the key global currency.

For one thing, the yen money market has not yet become fully efficient and functional with rules that harmonise with other major financial centres, the analysts said.

"The market's trust in the Bank of Japan's policies has been weak since the early 1990s, when the economic bubble finally burst," said a senior economist at a Japanese brokerage.

A critical delay in credit tightening was a factor behind Japan's asset inflation in the late 1980s, which was followed by a plunge in asset prices as the bubble burst, he said.

Economists said that while the dollar held key currency status, the United States was to some extent protected from mistakes in its economic policies.

"The United States has been failing to put in place convincing policies to rein in its swelling deficits since the mid-1990s, because the dollar was able to continue attracting global capital," Mr. Kwan of Nomura said.

At a ceremony that took place in Wallenius office in Stockholm on February 10th, 1995, Mr. P.C.K. O'Ferrall, Chairman of Lloyd's Register of Shipping, presented the certificate to the company.

Wallenius Lines is the biggest car transport shipping company in Europe with about 850,000 vehicles transported in worldwide traffic. The company is a leading carrier on the following trades; Far East - Europe, Europe - North America, North America - Europe, Europe-Middle/Far East, North America - Far East and Europe - Australia. The company's customers are the auto manufacturers of the world.

T. Gargour & Fils are Jordan's agents for Wallenius Lines. During 1994, Wallenius vessels carried 2123 cars to Aqaba constituting around 63 per cent of the total number of 3345 cars shipped to Aqaba from the North Continent and thus placing Wallenius Lines on top of all carriers serving Aqaba from the North Continent.

## Wallenius Lines Receives Quality Certification

We are the first shipping company in the world ...



... to have been approved by Lloyd's Register Quality Assurance Limited to the following quality management system standards:

ISO 9002:1994, EN ISO 9002:1994, SS-EN ISO 9002:1994 and the ISM Code.

We have always given priority to quality, safety and concern for the environment. Therefore it is very satisfying to have received the confirmation of Lloyd's Register that we meet the demands of the IMO convention regarding the safe operation of vessels.

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Wallenius Lines. "The certification from Lloyd's is proof, from a neutral expert, that our quality efforts work. It's also very satisfying to have received Lloyd's confirmation that we meet the demands of the IMO convention regarding the safe operation of vessels long before they will become mandatory for the world's shipping trade. This agrees very well with our ambition of being in the forefront concerning quality and safety issues."

The ISM Code (International Safety Management - IMO resolution 741/18) deals with the importance of crew and safety routines for marine safety, and it complements certification in accordance with the ISO 9002 standard, which primarily emanates from customer demands for a quality supplier. The code is based on the knowledge that people and technology must function together. The certification encompasses safety and the en-

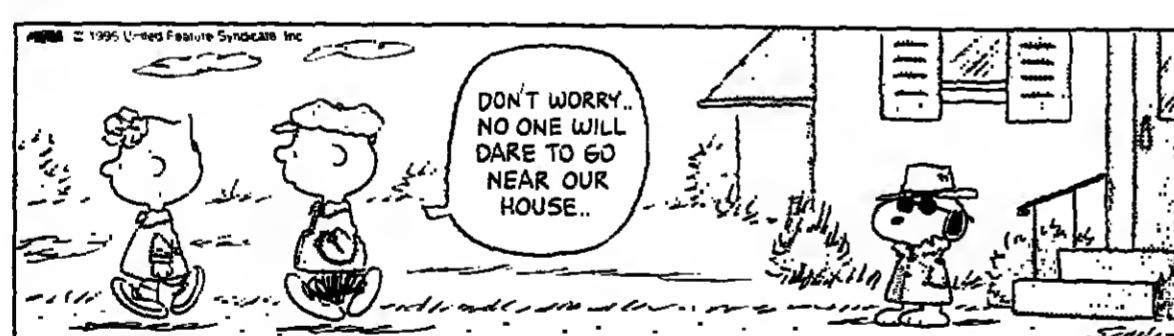
vironment as well as the handling of, and the division of responsibility for, regulations and routines aboard ship and ashore in accordance with stated national and international legislation. The ISM Code will become mandatory for passenger and tanker vessels in 1998 and for dry cargo vessels, which includes Wallenius vessels, by the year 2002.

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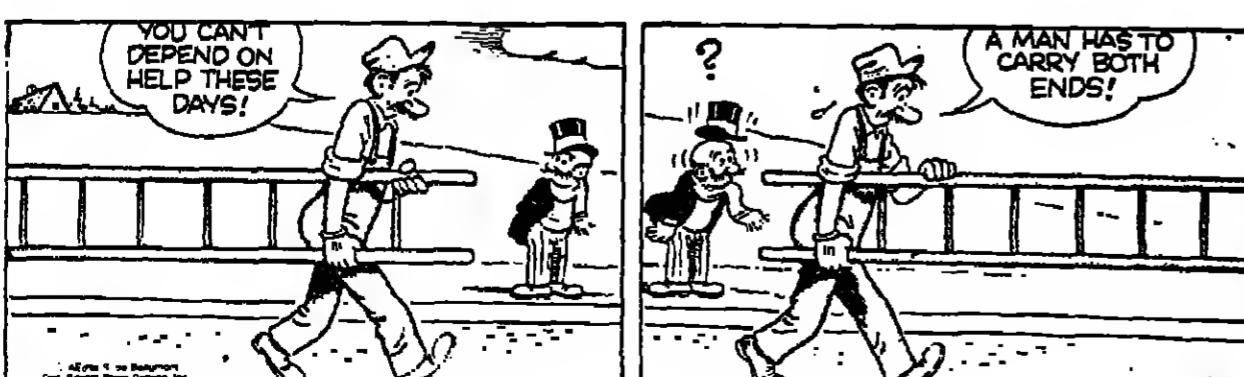
### Peanuts



### Andy Capp



### Mutt'n'Jeff



### THE BETTER HALF... By Glasbergen



When a cat purrs, it means she loves you and enjoys being close to you. It's the same thing when I snore.

### JUMBLE

THAT SCRABLED WORD GAME  
by Henri Arnold and Mike Argoff.

The larger the scrabble, the brighter the light

HATIF

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WAHSS

OO

CUGATH

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THINEW

OO

WHAT THE CLASS  
LEARNED WHILE  
STUDYING ELECTRICITY

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above caption.

Answer here: "OOOO" "OOOO"

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumble: FINAL DINER MARVEL CROTCH

Answer: What the fencer did to his opponent — FOILED HIM

### KIA: Dollar will recover

KUWAIT (R) — The Kuwait Investment Authority (KIA) believes the U.S. dollar will recover shortly because its fall has no basis in fundamental economic factors, an official of the state investment institution said Wednesday. "We feel the present currency fluctuation is short-term. Fundamental factors will prevail," the official, who declined to be identified, told Reuters. "Currency movements at the moment are not based on economic factors but on technical and speculative factors. We feel central banks will eventually be in a position to assist in a correction," the official said in a telephone interview. "This turmoil in the currency markets we are seeing will be adjusted in the next few days."

### HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY MARCH 9, 1995

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

**ARIES:** (March 21 to April 19) If you comprehend the ideas and needs of associates you can then carry through effectively today in gaining their backing. Seek outside help if you still have questions on the matter.

**TAURUS:** (April 20 to May 18) You have some good ideas for economising this morning. Make a campaign of action, and then go ahead with it. So don't procrastinate. Seek help from fellow associates if you get stymied.

**GEMINI:** (May 21 to June 21) Try to please a loved one today before getting involved in a heavy workload. Work at a regulated pace for best results and efficiency but don't forget to give yourself a break.

**MOON CHILDREN:** (June 22 to July 21) Improve home conditions before you consider a social invitation this evening. Take your time in reaching a decision. Don't be impulsive.

**LEO:** (July 22 to August 21) Don't neglect answering correspondence or you invite trouble. If you have made a promise to anyone, be sure to keep it or problems occur.

**VIRGO:** (August 22 to September 22) Your plans will be better if you contact the proper person early today for advice. Don't put off any longer making the necessary repairs to your home, or more damage could occur.

**LIBRA:** (September 23 to October 22) Plan early how to gain personal aims and then go after them in a positive way. Meet people who could help you in the future, not those who are mired in the past.

**SCORPIO:** (October 23 to November 21) An ideal day to make plans to gain your personal aims and then put your efforts to work. Think of loved ones first and you will always be ahead.

**SAGITTARIUS:** (November 22 to December 21) Have those talks with others that can be helpful to your business and personal lives this morning and spend the afternoon and evening in the company of good friends.

**CAPRICORN:** (December 22 to January 20) A big wig is willing to support you in a career affair. Good friends can also be helpful. Don't neglect credit affairs this afternoon which need to be handled.

**AQUARIUS:** (January 21 to February 19) Study new conditions you want to set up and then contact higher ups who can give you the right support. Start planning now for a trip that you want to take in the future.

**PISCES:** (February 20 to March 20) Forget the social obligations today and concentrate on unfinished projects. Get more information on newcomers before you try to deal with them. They may know things you don't.

Birthstone of March: Aquamarine — Jasper

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY MARCH 10, 1995

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

**ARIES:** (March 21 to April 19) Study every angle of your financial affairs today and set up a sensible plan for the days ahead. Think of loved ones, especially where children are involved.

**TAURUS:** (April 20 to May 18) Enjoy the company of old friends this morning and make new ones who can help make your life richer. Be wide awake to new opportunities and alert to any eventuality.

**GEMINI:** (May 21 to June 21) Show your finest talents at the task you are doing this morning and get excellent benefits from it. Don't spend money faster than it comes in. Economise!

**MOON CHILDREN:** (June 22 to July 21) Be good friends and relieve tensions you have been under for a long time. Be careful not to exploit friends this afternoon or you will lose them.

**LEO:** (July 22 to August 21) Plan more time for home improvements and bring more happiness there. Study a plan well before putting it into operation. Go out this evening with someone close.

**VIRGO:** (August 22 to September 22) Have talks with partners that bring more accord in the morning and expect benefits to follow. Handle any communications matters wisely and efficiently.

**LIBRA:** (September 23 to October 22) You are able to add appreciably to present income if you take advantage of opportunities presenting themselves this morning. Go along with the programme this afternoon.

**SCORPIO:** (October 23 to November 21) Don't waste time on a project that doesn't have the approval of higher ups. Be careful not to embarrass and associate this afternoon or you may regret it.

**SAGITTARIUS:** (November 22 to December 21) Meet problems as they arise and stop worrying needlessly. You have the support of friends today and your relatives in any situation troubling you.

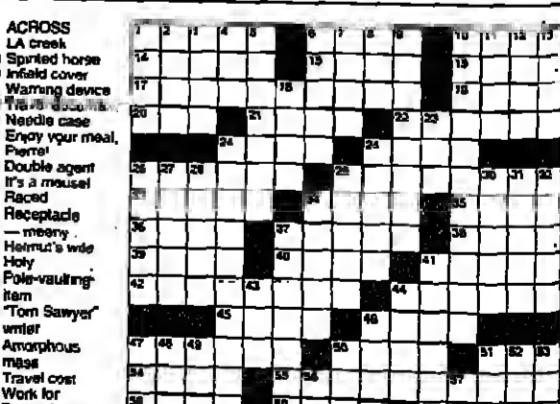
**CAPRICORN:** (December 22 to January 20) Good friends will help you gain a desired wish, even if they are temporal. Enterain them later but spend within your means.

**AQUARIUS:** (January 21 to February 19) You have a lot of enthusiasm today and you are able to accomplish much. Be sure to handle credit affairs wisely and you will have the best of all things.

**PISCES:** (February 20 to March 20) New situations arise this morning that could help you advance. You learn a good deal you didn't know before. Share this information with associates.

Birthstone of March: Aquamarine — Jasper

### THE Daily Crossword by George Urquhart





## Controversial goal puts Man. United back on top

LONDON (AP) — A controversial goal seven minutes from the end by centre back Steve Bruce sent defending titlist Manchester United to the top of the English Premier League standings Tuesday in a 1-0 victory at Wimbleton.

The win gives United the lead on goal difference from Blackburn which can restore its three-point lead by beating Arsenal Wednesday. The Reds gained that goal differential advantage by overwhelming lowly Ipswich 9-0 on Saturday.

It was United's first return to Selhurst Park since the infamous Eric Cantona incident Jan. 25 when its French striker leaped into the stands and kicked a Crystal Palace fan. Cantona, who faces criminal charges arising out of the incident, has been banned from game until October.

This game, too, exploded near the end. Wimbleton's Alan Kimble was sent off in the 80th minute for collecting his second yellow card, this time for failing to get back 10 yards (metres) from a corner,

and United threw five forwards plus defender Bruce up in attack to try and grab the winner.

It worked in the 83rd minute when Wimbleton's Dutch goalkeeper Hans Segers, failed to hold on to a through ball from Brian McClair and Bruce pounced to prod the ball home.

Wimbleton claimed he had kicked the ball out of Segers' hands and referee Robbie Hart ordered the Dons manager, Joe Kinnear, off the bench and into the stands for his own loud, arm-waving protest.

Wimbleton, which stayed in 12th place in the 22-team standings, should have taken a sixth minute lead when Dean Holdsworth latched onto a wayward throw in from United defender Denis Irwin but shot across the face of the goal from close range.

In the 25th minute rescued his team with a one-handed, diving save to keep out a left-footed shot from Gary Muller.

Four minutes before half time, however, Marcus Gayle

got through the United defence but Danish keeper Peter Schmeichel raced off his line to block his first effort. Gayle got hold of the rebound but, with Schmeichel grounded, defender Gary Pallister got back to clear his follow-up shot off the line.

In the division one promotion race, Middlesbrough pulled level on points with leader Tranmere by beating Watford 2-0. Tranmere tumbled 2-0 at Sheffield United.

At Bramall Lane, Northern Ireland midfielder Kingsley Black fired the blades ahead against Tranmere.

Dane Whitehouse missed a chance to make it 2-0 just before half time when he shot wide from the penalty spot but Sheffield, which climbed to third, scored a second after the break through Nathan Blake.

Middlesbrough's Robbie

Muscat fired his team ahead after 32 minutes with a long-range drive against Watford and German striker Uwe

Muscat took a pass from Bolivian forward Jaime Moreno to hit the second.

## America's Cup

### Kiwis keep Japan out of semifinals

SAN DIEGO (AFP) — Japanese sailors will be looking over their shoulders during the final round-robin races, with the French battling them for the final berth in the America's Cup challenger semi-finals.

Nippon Challenge could have clinched a berth here Tuesday had it been able to stay ahead of Team New Zealand, which came from behind to win by 57 seconds while fifth-place France 3 was losing to TAG Heuer by 2 minutes 38 seconds.

"Nobody will remember who won the round-robin. They'll remember who won the America's Cup," Mahaney said.

In the critical race, Nippon helmsman John Cutler deftly forced Coutts to the right side at the start, then led the Kiwis around the first three marks by 22, 12 and 24 seconds — from two to four boat lengths.

"It's not looking very likely now," France 3 coach Harold Cudmore said. "Today shows the deficit we have. TAG just took a little away from us on each leg. Unless something happens to Nippon, I thought they should get through."

An older OneAustralia boat, refitted after AUS-35 sank Sunday, had no trouble in its resurrection race, beating Sydney 95 by 1:54.

The Australians, showing good humor after their disaster, wearing bright orange life jackets until the race began. Helmsman Rod Davis said it was a good race, not only for winning the first race back but because "we're not all wet."

OneAustralia skipper John Bertrand accepted a \$2 million check from Australia's MMI insurance company for the sunken AUS 35. He was pleased with the revamped older boat's debut.

"We went upwind in a competitive mode, and the boat worked pretty well."

The Japanese briefly protested. They suspected the Kiwis sailed more than three races of the round with a coach, designer or other "technical" person riding as the 17th man, contrary to a new rule.

The rule was added earlier in this event to prevent Nippon from using coach Peter Gilmore as its regular 17th man, instead of the sponsor

Bertrand said. "But the boat needs a bit of work before the semifinals."

Kevin Mahaney sailed FACT 95's Young America's Cup battling them for the final berth in the America's Cup challenger semi-finals.

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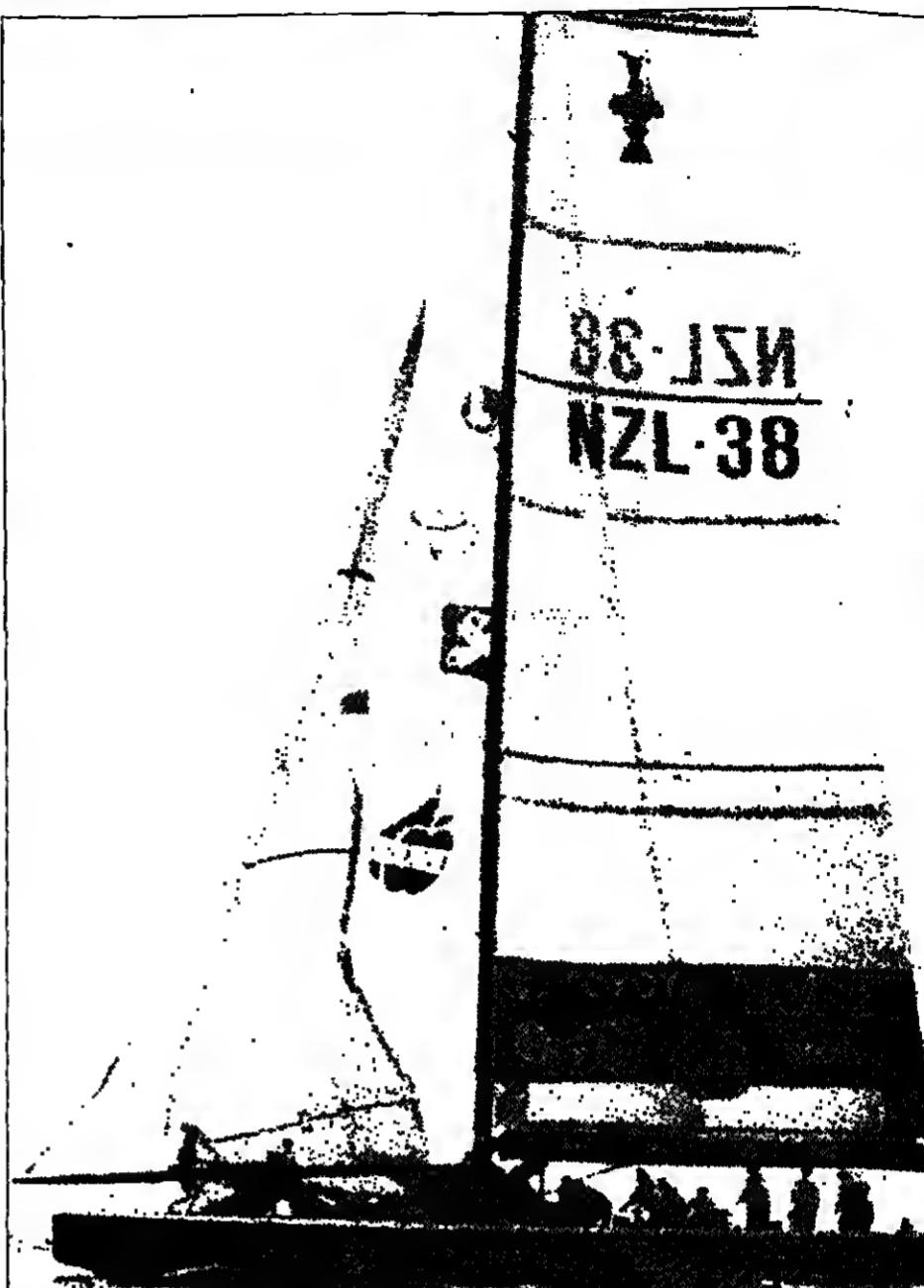
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The crew aboard Team New Zealand's Black Magic sets the spinnaker after rounding the first leeward mark in the America's Cup challengers race (AFP photo)

Coutts said.

Stars and Stripes navigator Jim Brady said he is confident that his boat can gear up to speed with Young America and hold off the Americans in the semifinals.

"Dennis has had the ability to do that in the past. We'll be there when it comes right down to it."

## Czechs take aim at Russian pairs

BIRMINGHAM (AP) — For a change, the pairs gold medal at the World Figure Skating Championships may not be going to Russia.

Instead, the Russians, who have won 26 of the last 30 world pairs titles, may lose out to a couple of California-based Czechs. Ironically, they are coached by the great Russian pairs skater of them all.

Ten-time world champion Irina Rodnina, who has moved west to set up camp at Lake Arrowhead, California, took on Radka Kovarikova and Rene Novotny two years ago and has brought them to the brink of the championship. She did it by taking advantage of the engaged couples' romantic feelings for each other.

Rodnina came up with the idea that the Kovarikova and Novotny play the roles of Romeo and Juliet but it was the judges. Skating to Tchaikovskiy's composition of the same name, they won the short programme Tuesday and will have the classical look again when they skate to Verdi in Wednesday's medal-deciding free skate.

"Because we are close to each other, we can show it more in this programme," Kovarikova said of the Romeo and Juliet routine. "It's like we make a story on ice. We had a finish where we were dying on the ice, but that's not allowed under the rules. It's a pity, but it's better to stand there and not to die, and not to have any marks dropped."

Instead of dying, the pair hugged at mid-ice after their routine to the cheers of the near-capacity crowd at the NEC Arena.

The classical theme used by today's top pairs — nearly all of the big-name couples here are romantically-linked and are skating programme

to match — has taken some getting used to for Rodnina, who was the epitome of power and strength while she was winning her titles with two different partners throughout the 1970s.

"My style was more speed and athletic," Rodnina said. "I never skated with classical music, and we never skated face-to-face."

In what was considered a wide-open competition going in, there was little to separate the top five pairs.

European champions and ex-lovers Mandy Woetzel and Ingo Steuer of Germany were second performing to piano music a routine that defined the word flow. They placed first with two judges, and might have been first if Steuer had not struggled to get on to a triple-toe loop.

Defending champions Yevgeniya Shishkova and Vadim Naumov were third. Fellow Russians Marina Yel'tsova and Andrey Bushkov, the only top pair that's never been a couple off the ice, were fourth.

U.S. champions Jenni Meno and Todd Sand, who will marry in July, thrilled the crowd with their now-famous move out of a lift that leaves her head swinging inches from the ice.

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## Suns beat Rockets despite Olajuwon's 40 points

HOUSTON (R) — Hakeem Olajuwon's 40 points weren't enough as the Phoenix Suns handed the Houston Rockets their fifth straight loss, 113-102 on Tuesday.

Charles Barkley's 16-for-23 grabbed 13 rebounds before fouling out with 3:50 to play.

Houston has lost five straight for the first time since March 1992. "We are not panicking, we are just upset with the way we are playing," Olajuwon said.

Barkley finished with 26 points and 14 rebounds. Johnson had nine of his 24 points in the fourth quarter and dished out 11 assists for the Suns, who have won four straight and beat Houston for the first time in three tries this season.

"At times we've come to Houston and let them control the game inside and out," Johnson said. "We were de-

termined we were not going to let that happen. Hakeem gets so exhausted by the end of the game that we thought we could take advantage."

Phoenix's bench outscored Houston's 38-23.

In Sacramento, John Stockton scored 15 of his 28 points in a four-minute span bridging the fourth quarter and overtime as the Utah Jazz rallied to beat the reeling Kings 102-95.

Stockton scored Utah's last eight points of regulation as the Jazz erased an 89-82 deficit in the final 79 seconds of the fourth quarter.

### RESULTS

Cleveland	89	Detroit	81
Miami	110	LA Lakers	104
New York	115	Boston	110
Phoenix	113	Houston	102
Denver	99	Dallas	96
Portland	106	Milwaukee	100
Indiana	117	San Antonio	100
Utah	102	Sacramento	95(OT)

hadn't lost at home in 11 games. Dennis Rodman scored 31 points for Sacramento, which has lost eight of its last nine games. The Kings now lead Denver by just 2½ games for the final playoff spot in the Western Conference.

In San Antonio, Rik Smits scored a season-high 35 points as the Indiana Pacers Rode a 16-point first-quarter lead to a 117-100 victory, snapping the Spurs' eight-game win streak.

Sean Elliott scored 28 points and David Robinson added 19 for the Spurs, who

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Dino Radja scored 29 points for the Celtics, who have lost nine in a row to the Knicks. Forward Dominique Wilkins scored 19 points and became the ninth player in league history to reach 25,000 points.

In Cleveland, Tyrone Hill scored the Cavaliers' last 10 points as they held the Detroit Pistons scoreless for nearly eight minutes of the fourth quarter for an 89-81 victory.

Terry Mills got 26 points and 10 rebounds for Detroit, which has lost seven straight at Cleveland.

In Milwaukee, Terry Porter scored a season-high 36 points as the Portland Trail Blazers defeated the Bucks 106-100.

In Miami, Glen Rice scored 13 of his 23 points in the first quarter and the Heat never trailed in a 110-104 victory over the Los Angeles Lakers.

The Heat won despite suspending starting forward Kevin Willis for the game for failure to comply with his back rehabilitation programme.

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Jean-Claude Van Damme  
**STREET FIGHTER**  
Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 5:45, 11:00

**CONCORD '1'**

## Malaysia bans 80 players over match-fixing

KUALA LUMPUR (R) — Eighty players implicated in match-fixing by police have been banned from the Malaysian League this season, the Football Association of Malaysia (FAM) announced Wednesday.

The names on the list handed over by the police to FAM were not revealed, the national news agency Bernama said.

About 120 players — one-third of the league's work-

force — have been questioned about match-fixing in the inaugural season of the Malaysian League.

It is the biggest bribery investigation in the game's history.

The Singapore team, who won both the League Championship and the annual Malaysia Cup last year, have withdrawn from the league after the FAM publicly stated that it was considering expelling them.

Deputy home minister Megat Junid Megat Ayob announced last month that 22 players would be sent into international exile under the restricted residence order.

Those banished to remote

areas of Malaysia must report to police daily and stay indoors from dusk to dawn.

The soccer bribery scandal in Malaysia and Singapore came to light when Singapore's anti-corruption officials arrested Czech striker Michael Vana and a Singaporean referee in August last year on charges of fixing six matches in the 16-team league.

Vana subsequently jumped bail and fled Prague.

## Fernandez jumps 7 places in WTA rankings

MIAMI (Agencies) — Mary Joe Fernandez was just as happy the WTA waited until Tuesday to release their rankings this week.

The U.S. veteran beat Natasha Zvereva of Belarus in Monday's rain-delayed Davis Cup final at Indian Wells and completed a jump of seven places, to 12th from 9th, in ratings released here one day later than normal.

Spain's Arantxa Sanchez Vicario remained number one in the world and will keep the top spot next week no matter how number two Steffi Graf does at the Delray Beach Championship.

Japan's Naoko Sawamatsu advanced from 16th to 14th.

1. Arantxa Sanchez Vicario (Spain)
2. Steffi Graf (Germany)
3. Mary Pierce (France)
4. Conchita Martinez (Spain)
5. Jana Novotna (Czech Republic)
6. Lindsay Davenport (USA)
7. Gabriela Sabatini (Argentina)
8. Natasha Zvereva (Belarus)
9. Kimiko Date (Japan)
10. Anke Huber (Germany)
11. Magdalena Maleeva (Bulgaria)
12. Mary Joe Fernandez (USA)
13. Iva Majoli (Croatia)
14. Naoko Sawamatsu (Japan)
15. Brenda Schultz (Netherlands)



Mary Joe Fernandez

Graf, who now is 5-0 in 1995, played confidently in the first set of the 65-minute, second-round match. She outmaneuvered the 131st-ranked Sanchez Lorenzo with ease in the 25 minute first set. Graf won 27 of the 40 points played in the opening set — losing six points on her own serve and seven points on Sanchez Lorenzo's serve.

Both Sanchez Lorenzo, a rare player who hits two-handed shots from both sides, calmed and gave Graf a fight in the second set.

Huber needed only 63-minutes to dispose of the 78th-ranked Bobkova and take a 2-0 career edge over the Czech native.

Courier was among the U.S. players who ousted France in a first-round matchup last month in Florida. But that meant flying back from Australia in a rush, then hurrying to play on the U.S. West Coast.

That was a lot for a man who began the year fifth among Americans and never expected to get the Davis Cup call. In fact, Courier blames his Davis Cup loyalty in 1994 for his reduced ranking in 1995.

"I figured it needed to be done, so I went and played the first one," Courier said. "This is the kind of thing that got me in trouble last year, playing too much. That's what took my fire away. I don't want to re-live that if I

Courier remains undecided but doubtful about playing for a lackluster U.S. Davis Cup team to visit Italy for a second-round match on clay that starts March 31.

Courier spoke Tuesday after ousting Germany's Mar-

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World number one Pete Sampras, his close pursuer Andre Agassi and world number four Michael Chang do not plan to play for the U.S. squad. Todd Martin is unlikely and Courier feels put in a bind.

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kins Zeecke in the first round of the ATP Champions Cup here.

The top eight seeds received first round byes.

The second-ranked Graf, who was plagued by a back injury for much of the last six months of 1994, is playing in her second event of 1995. Last month, Graf won the Paris title, her first since capturing the laurels in San Diego last August.

## Kankkunen leads Portugal Rally

IGUERO DA FOZ, Portugal (R) — Finland's Juha Kankkunen restored Toyota's fortunes Wednesday with a flying start to the rally of Portugal, the third round of this year's world driving championships.

After five stages Kankkunen was 12 seconds clear of Carlos Sainz of Spain in a Ford Impreza. He was one second ahead of Frenchman Didier Auriol's Toyota Celica.

"The car is much better. I'm a bit surprised to be leading," said the 35-year-old four times world champion, who won the rally last year. New rules limiting engine power have hit world champions Toyota hard this year and the team was out of the running on the first two rounds of the series.

However, Kankkunen was fast on four of the first five stages to open up a narrow lead over Sainz and Auriol. Sainz and his British team mate Colin McRae are complaining bitterly of a lack of power on the much fancied

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A minimum of two years experience is required.  
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Applicants are required to submit a detailed CV along with the application.

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Mathematics (both languages)  
Music

A minimum of two years experience is required.  
Applications should be submitted before Thursday March 16th, 1995.

Applicants are required to submit a detailed CV along with the application.

Applicants will be received daily (except Fridays) between 3-6 p.m. in the school premises in Khaldia, opposite King Hussein Medical Centre, Tel. No. 865831.

The Modern Montessori School invites applicants for teaching positions for grades 1-7 for the scholastic year 1995-96. Applicants should have one of the following qualifications:

English Language (Native Speakers) - Arabic Language  
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